

Born in 1921, and fascinated with radios from a young age, Paul Harvey started working in radio in his early teens. He

*personalized the radio news with his right-wing opinions, but laced them with his own trademarks: a hypnotic timbre, extended pauses for effect, heart-warming tales of average Americans and folksy observations that evoked the heartland, family values and the old-fashioned plain talk one heard around the dinner table on Sunday.*

Harvey will be remembered as a conservative commentator who

*championed rugged individualism, love of God and country, and the fundamental decency of ordinary people.*

His tag-line was “*and now you know the rest of the story.*”

In today’s Gospel from St. John, we hear the story of Jesus washing his disciples’ feet. For the most part, they are passive - until St. Peter objects. Jesus’ response to Peter is:

*What I am doing, you do not understand now, but you will understand later.*

And once the act is complete, and Jesus once again resumes His position as host, master, and teacher; He says to the assembled Apostles:

*Do you [understand] what I have done for you?*

What do you think was going through the disciples’ minds when He asked that? Just a few minutes before, Jesus tells them “*you do not understand now, but you will understand later.*” And after the short span of minutes asks them “*Do you [understand]?*”

He goes on to tell them:

*I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do.*

What changed in those minutes? Surely they held Our Lord in the highest esteem. Most certainly he recognized that they saw Him as ‘teacher’ and ‘master.’

*Do you [understand] what I have done for you?*

In a few moments, we will ceremonially reenact this episode from the Gospel.

Do we understand what Jesus has done for us?

Today, Holy Thursday, commemorates the Institution of the Eucharist. Something that, perhaps, we take for granted ... something, perhaps, that we don't give much thought to.

Do we understand what He has done for us?

At the beginning of this chapter from St. John, we are told that:

*[Jesus] loved his own in the world and he loved them to the end.*

Do we understand?

We know that this is not the end of the story.

The rest of the story, the Passion from St. John's Gospel, will be read tomorrow.

Can we do what Jesus has done? Are we able to follow the model He has given us?

Do we understand all that He has done for us?

As we continue with this liturgy, and as we approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ ... let us pray for that particular gift of the Holy Spirit ... "understanding." Let us ask for a deeper understanding of what Christ has done for us. And what He does for us every moment of every day. God desires to be part of our lives - from the smallest detail to the biggest problem. Let us welcome Him in ... let us allow him to "*love [us] to the end.*"

And as we continue in these three days ... this Sacred Paschal Triduum ... may we - in a new and deeper sense - truly understand ... what Jesus ... has done ... and continues to do ... for each of us.