

Dear friends,

During this 40-day time of Lent I want to dwell for a moment on the story of Jesus who washed the feet of his apostles on Maundy Thursday (Jo 13, 1 - 11). Every one of us knows this story.



This message also means that we must be of service to all those we meet on our way, especially those who are extremely vulnerable in our society.

It is sometimes far from easy to be vulnerable and to receive. Just look at Peter who did not want Jesus to wash his feet. In fact, Peter did not want to expose himself!

But Jesus does that himself. See Jo 12, 1 - 3. Jesus allows Mary to wash his feet with expensive oil. At that moment Jesus receives a lot of love and affection. He makes himself vulnerable. And in turn Jesus passes on what he received from Mary to His apostles. And also to us.

Isn't it so that we can only give when we also open ourselves to receive and thus dare to be vulnerable? It points to our mutual dependence, which is much needed in our so hurt world today.

Within our international Chevalier family we can feel this : we are able to give a lot, within and outside of our Chevalier family, because we are allowed to receive a lot from each other ... because we dare to open ourselves to each other's warm and tender gestures. This enables us to be resurrection people ... according to His example.

I would like to end with a text by Carlos DESOETE, diocesan priest of Bruges (B - Europe).

Since that first Easter

every Sunday is more than just a Sunday.

More than just resting from the week's work, or just doing nothing.

More than going to Mass because that's what it's supposed to be.

Since that first Easter

every Sunday bears the memory

that once upon a time one of our own rose from death

and that since then death has not been the last word,

that life is something to talk about.

Since that first Easter

every Sunday carries the appeal

not to play the game of injustice and death,

but to surrender us with heart and soul and all our strength

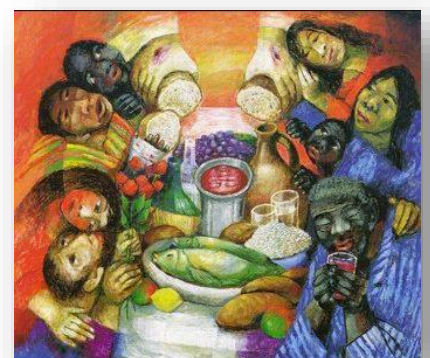
to anything that enables people to live better lives.

To all of you a healing Lent and a joyful and liberating Easter.

AMETUR.

Rita Cleuren

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"The meal" from the Misereor starvation cloth "Hope to the excluded" by Sieger Köder © MVG Medienproduktion, 1996.