

As I read the passion reading today, I am struck by all the information that is present in this one story. There are so many places and people mentioned that it can become hard to concentrate on the entire story and what it means for us as believers. What I would like to suggest today is that we focus our attention on three areas mentioned in the passion.

The Table in the Upper Room, The Garden of Gethsemane, and the Hill called Golgotha. I decided to point out these three places because they all represent a moment in the life of Christ when he displayed an act of giving. In the Upper Room at the table with his disciples he gave the gift of himself, his very Body and Blood, to the Church on earth.

Christ gave this sacred meal to us so that we would be nourished in our time of spiritual hunger. It has become a source of energy and strength for all believers as they journey through life.

In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus gave up his opportunity to walk away from his suffering and death. It is very poignant how he talks with his Father in Heaven and considers the idea of letting the cup of suffering pass from him, but then he stops and reminds himself, “But not what I will but what you will.” With those words He gave himself over to his destiny of suffering and dying. That selfless act would lead to our redemption.

Finally we focus our attention on the Hill at Golgotha. Jesus endured brutal attacks and beatings and carried his cross to Golgotha where he was crucified for our sins. He gave up his life so that we would know the joys of everlasting life. His death gave life to the world. As we begin this Holy Week we need to visit the Upper Room, the Garden of Gethsemane, and Golgotha in an effort to

appreciate the sacrifice that was made for us. Wherever we are this week, be it at home, at work, at school, we are called to enter into Christ's passion and death as a sign of our appreciation for his gift of New Life.