SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
July 27, 2014

Prayer after Communion:

We have consumed, O Lord, this divine Sacrament, the perpetual memorial of the Passion of your Son; grant, we pray, that this gift, which he himself gave us with love beyond all telling, may profit us for salvation. Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection:

For any one of us who has done any in-depth studies in liturgy, there is constantly one central, one theological tenet that surfaces: Paschal Mystery. Regardless of how simply or profoundly we comprehend Paschal Mystery, this prayer seemingly captures its essence in what might be considered a strikingly poetic fashion.

That being said, the words that jumped off the page from this prayer is the phrase “which [Jesus] himself gave us with a love beyond all telling.” How does one describe such love; what wondrous love, what profound love, what unconditional love? It would appear that our lives of discipleship – as recipients of this gift and spiritual nourishment – just might be emboldened to bear witness to this “love beyond all telling.”

Prayer:

O God, source of all love, help us by our words and deeds to bear witness to the gift of your love which we have received in and through your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray, now and for ever. Amen.

Submitted by:
Reverend James Wm. Bessert,
Director, Office of Liturgy
Diocese of Saginaw

Excerpt from The Roman Missal, Third Edition © 2010, ICEL.
Reprinted with approval of the Committee on Divine Worship, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.