

THE COMMUNION SERVICE/AGAPE FEAST

Submitted by Corrado Cozzi, Youth Ministries Director, Euro-Africa Division

NOTE:

All ingredients—plates, glasses, bowls, etc.—should be enough for each participant. Try and do a count ahead of time, so you can have an idea how many to prepare for.

If there is not enough space for everyone, place some chairs against the walls all around the room, or in a central spot.

Arrange ahead of time someone who can play a musical instrument, not necessarily a piano; any musical instrument will help enhance the musical program.



What you will need:

- Candles (50-100, small with the aluminum base)
- White disposable plates
- White disposable soup bowls
- Clear disposable glasses (small)

- Forks and knives (white)
- Disposable napkins
- Disposable tablecloth (white)
- Glass pitchers for water
- Glass pitchers for grape juice
- Serving plates
- Wicker basket for the bread

Preparing the food

- Unleavened bread
- Uncooked/raw green vegetables
- Lightly steamed green vegetables
- Cooked with oil, garlic and salt
- Soft asiago/edam or available cheese dried fruits (almonds, nuts, hazel nuts, figs, dates)
- Pitchers for the water
- Pitchers for the red grape juice
- Fresh fruits of season (so desired)

Preparing the room/place for feast

- Tables can be arranged in the shape of a cross
- Establish a place for projection/viewing film(s)

Preparing the table

- White tablecloth
- Arrange the plates along the sides of the table, with napkins, glasses, cutlery
- Candles—laid out along the tables down the center; make sure candles cover all the tables
- Bread—place in a basket at center of the table or the center of the cross
- Pitchers—laid out on the table with water and grape juice
- Food subdivided in plates to serve
 - a) Plates for the cheese
 - b) Plates for the greenery
 - c) Plates for the dry fruits

Persons in charge

- Two for the food
- Two to prepare the table
- Two for the distribution
- One for the opening and the closing program
- One for the songs and the prayers

Program in general outline

- Welcome, songs and initial prayer
- Video clip (Watch the Lamb or other video)
- Special song or Bible reading/background music

- Beginning of Communion Service (music to create an atmosphere of joy but also of respect)
- Distribution and eating of food (towards the end of the meal, while everyone is still eating, leader will deliver a short message/sermon)
- Watch part of film on John
- Short talk about the importance and meaning of the foot-washing ordinance. Everyone should be in groups (men, women, youth, etc.)
- Foot washing
- Ambient chants and/or music
- Watch part of film on John
- Introduction to the bread and the grape juice
- Holy Supper/Communion
- Short comments of circumstance surrounding the first Communion service
- A special song to prepare for prayer
- Prayers and silent moments
- Final song

