

Homily – November 22, 2020

This weekend, we celebrate the great *“Solemnity of Christ the King.”* Today the liturgical year comes to end as we begin a new one with the celebration of Advent next week.

Today’s feast is pretty new in our Church, as it was instituted by [Pope Pius XI](#) in 1925 to counter the impending threat of atheistic communism and fascism, and unfortunately, we saw how these political systems destroyed nations.

Throughout human history many rulers, dictators and even presidents have claimed to be “kings of the world”; but ultimately, there is only ONE KING, and His name is above every other name: **Jesus Christ Our Lord, the King of the UNIVERSE.** But what exactly does this mean for us?

Anyone’s who’s baptized is anointed PRIEST, PROPHET AND KING – meaning, as Priest, we offer our lives in sacrifice; as Prophet, we proclaim the Gospel to all the nations; and finally, as King, we share in the Kingship of Christ as members of His Kingdom. We call this the COMMON PRIESTHOOD. Now the MINISTERIAL PRIESTHOOD (which I’m a part of) are men called by God and given the Sacrament of Holy Orders to serve you, the common priesthood.

Now why is Christ called a KING? A king is one who reigns over a kingdom. Christ is Lord of all creation and all of humanity. From 1 Colossians we hear, *“(Christ) is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in Him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers – all things have been created through Him and for Him.”*

If Christ is our king, He governs us; He is the Lord over our lives. **And the fundamental duty of every Christian is to allow Christ to rule over our hearts, and to allow Him to govern our choices.** Because it’s not our morality; it’s God’s morality, and our mission as Catholic Christians is for God’s morality to be the standard for **everyone**. This is because we want everyone to have what we have, to have an opportunity to go to heaven!

Now some might say this sounds arrogant or elitist, BUT WE WANT EVERYONE TO BE SAVED! Our mission as Christians on earth is to bring everyone to Christ, from the

staunchest atheist to the most devout Buddhist! And we don't take credit for this at all, because all glory belongs to God alone!

It's because Christ defeated the kingdom of darkness and death by His own death on the cross. And so, there is no power on earth other than that of Christ – all power passes through Christ and comes from Christ.

That's why Jesus says to His Apostles right before He ascended into heaven in Matthew 28:18: *“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. And remember, I am with you always until the end of the age.”*

This is the great commission that has been handed down to us. All authority - from Holy Church, to family to society - comes from Christ and depends upon Him. **He is the King of all society, even those outside of the Christian faith.**

That's why every person in authority - from the Pope, to the Bishops, the Prime Minister, the President, the royal family, even the Communist politburo in China have to answer to Christ, and how they execute their office.

But as my friend Deacon Doug says, *“At this moment in history, Christ does not reign in the world. Not yet. He is Lord of all and Lord of creation; and although He reigns in the Church, He does not yet reign over the entire world because the world has not allowed Him to.”*¹

There is still rebellion against God in the world and even within our own Church by the actions of some of her members, and we are still fighting this battle against evil. There are organizations who push for human rights, but there are also a lot of “human wrongs” as well; such as **Church scandal, terrorism, illicit drugs, breakdown of the family, divorce, abortion, human trafficking, pedophilia and pornography.**

And so, how do we fight this war? First St. Paul tells us in Eph 6 to *“Put on the armour of God that we may be able to resist evil and hold our ground.”* *We need to be rooted in Truth, and Christ is the Truth, therefore we need to be rooted in Christ.* And we do this by daily prayer, reading the Scriptures every day, reading the Catechism of the Catholic Church. We need to be *“clothed in righteousness”* by our actions and dispositions without being arrogant or

¹ http://www.lifeissues.net/writers/mcm/mcm_330christtheking11.22.2020.html

judgmental. We need to offer little sacrifices for the souls in purgatory and those who cause us suffering. We need to pray constantly for the Church and the world. As a priest, I am bound by obedience to pray for the Church every day, even though I am not bound to celebrate mass every day, but I am BOUND to pray the Divine Office, or the Liturgy of the Hours every day under penalty of mortal sin if I don't. We need to enthrone our entire family to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary. We need to go to Confession regularly, and we need to pray the Rosary daily, because **it is one of the most powerful weapons against evil in the world**. Lastly, we need to feed the hungry, visit the sick and the unwanted, and we need to protect and defend the most vulnerable such as the unborn and the elderly. That is how we will win this battle against evil. That is how Christ will reign in His world.

And so, my friends, on this feast of Christ the King, let us prepare our hands for war and our fingers for battle against the powers of darkness. (Psalm 144). We are the Church Militant. We continue to walk with Jesus our King on the road to salvation towards victory: victory over sin, victory over suffering, victory over death, and victory towards eternal life.