

Christ the King- Last Sunday: (25th Anniv. Euch Ador Chapel at St. Bonaventure) (“King of Hearts” and Stewardship)

Jesus is the King of the universe. What type of King is he? Today's Gospel tells us that his Kingdom is not of this world. While he was on the cross, all laughed at him: Ironically, leaders were demanding proof of his being truly the Christ of God; the Roman soldiers required that he saves himself from the cross as proof that *he was truly the King of the Jews*; even one of the criminals, crucified with him, insulted him. Only one voice was raised differently: the thief, crucified with him on the right side (aware of his many sins, turns to Jesus King), “Lord, remember me when you are in your kingdom”. This criminal has the joy of hearing from the lips of Jesus the personal promise: *“today you will be with me in Paradise” (in my Kingdom)*-

Yes, Jesus is King on the Cross. And his Kingdom is established through his sacrifice on the cross. What for the world, seemed like a total failure, becomes the decisive victory: Jesus dying on the cross, conquers death- the greatest enemy of life- forever, and win over Satan with all his deception, and opens the way to resurrection, to eternal life for all of us.

Don't we pray, “thy kingdom come”? What do we mean when you and me say that? What follows next, “thy will be done” is the answer. Whichever heart is following and fulfilling the WILL of God, those are the hearts that Christ the King reigns. That is his kingdom. To the question of Pontius Pilate: “are you the King?”, Jesus responded “my kingdom is not of this world’. Yes, Jesus is king of hearts, where his will is being done.

Stewardship Campaign-2025: “God’s Distributors”

This week we celebrate “Thanksgiving Day”, and we also conclude our parish Stewardship Campaign. Our 2nd reading today teaches us: ‘Bros and sisters, let us give thanks to the Father, who has made you to share the inheritance of the holy ones’.

Once, there was a terrible earth quake disaster in an African country. People from all over the world started sending help. A big donor group in USA collected food, clothing and medicine, and shipped them to the disaster hit area. Two months later, a representative from the donor group visited the disaster location, only to discover that the people who unloaded the shipment thought that it was meant for them only and kept it for themselves. How would the visitor respond, if not by saying “we sent it for everyone, and we expected you to manage the distribution”.

As God made us sharers of his inheritance, and has sent us the blessings, would this story not make sense to us, as God has expected us to be “faithful distributors”? St. Peter reminds us, “we are called to be God's faithful distributors of gifts” (1Pet.4:10) The concept of being a "good steward" implies a responsibility to use what has been entrusted to you, not for your own benefit, but for the benefit of your brethren as well. These "goods" are both spiritual and material gifts, that God has given to each of us.

In this ‘Thanksgiving’ week, as you discern your gifts and charisms in gratitude to our loving God, this is the time we ask ourselves, ‘how much God has blessed me, and am I using my gifts according to God’s Plan, as a faithful distributor of His gifts’.

Brothers and sisters, take a moment to discern and acknowledge your gifts and charisms. Experience the supernatural Peace and Joy God desires and offers for each of us. Listen to, how God is calling you to use your gifts, to bear good fruit, for the glory of His name. May Christ the King bless you as we pray, “Lord, thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven”. Amen.

The love of God compels us to choose who or what will be first in our lives.

To place any relationship or any possession above God is a form of idolatry. Jesus, the king challenges us his disciples to examine who we love first and foremost. Jesus' way to glory and power is opposite to the world's way of glory, power, and success. The choice is ours, but the Lord does not leave us alone, if we choose to follow him.

Does the love of Christ compel you to put God first in all you are and all you do?

Gesù è il Re dell'Universo, ma il Vangelo di oggi, mette in rilievo che il suo regno non è di questo mondo. Mentre era in croce tutti lo deridevano: il popolo guardava, forse aspettando un altro prodigi; i capi con ironia, domandavano ancora prova del suo essere veramente il Cristo di Dio; i

soldati romani richiedevano la salvezza fisica come prova che era veramente re dei giudei; persino uno dei due malfattori, crocifissi con lui, lo insultava. Solo una voce si alza in solidarietà: quella del secondo malfattore. Egli consapevole dei suoi molti peccati, si rivolge con fiducia a Gesù Re, per ricevere salvezza.

Sì, Gesù è Re e il suo regno si realizza proprio sulla croce. Ciò che per gli uomini sembra un fallimento totale, diventa la vittoria decisiva: Gesù morendo in croce, *vince la morte per sempre*, vince satana con tutti i suoi inganni e apre la strada alla risurrezione, alla vita eterna per tutti noi. Il secondo malfattore ha la gioia di sentire dalle labbra di Gesù la promessa personale: *"Oggi, con me sarai in paradiso"*.

Gesù fa questa promessa anche a noi nel nostro oggi; bisogna solo che ci riconosciamo peccatori, bisognosi di salvezza e ci rivolgiamo a lui, nostro Re, con fiducia. Nella mia pausa contemplativa di oggi, davanti al Crocifisso, mi ricordo di quanto Gesù Salvatore, Re dell'Universo, ha fatto per me. Faccio anche memoria di ciò che io realizzo per amore suo.

Ti rendo grazie con gioia, o Padre, che mi ha reso capace di partecipare alla sorte dei santi nella luce. Gloria al Padre e al Figlio e allo Spirito Santo! Amen.

Un maestro di vita spirituale di oggi: Il pentimento cristiano non può essere paragonato a nessun'altra esperienza religiosa naturale ... **Il pentimento è un frutto dello Spirito Santo e l'impronta più sicura della sua azione in un'anima.** Nessuno può conoscere il proprio peccato senza contemporaneamente conoscere Dio: non prima o dopo, ma nel medesimo istante, in una sola e identica intuizione di grazia.