

The Solemnity of Christ the King: Cycle B: 2015: Dn 7: 13-14; Ps. 93; Rev 1: 5-8; Jn 18: 33b-37

“Is Jesus the True King of our Lives?”

We hear in the psalm response today that “*holiness befits your house, O Lord for length of days.*” Is this what we are striving for as the primary goal in our lives: to grow daily in holiness, in walking with the Lord in every aspect of our existence, in inviting Him to be the King of our hearts? Or is it something else?

1. **Do we put our faith in Jesus and love Him above all else?** This means our Catholic faith is foremost in our minds in all that we say, think, and do each day. And we can’t separate love for God from love for the Catholic Church which He founded by His death on the Cross, and love for our neighbor purchased by His blood, which includes everyone. Jesus tells us today that, “*His Kingdom does not belong to this world.*” In all honesty have we set our hearts on His Kingdom or on this world, on its goods and pleasures - which, by the way, are all passing away!? Are we **materialistic** at the core of our being, in all honesty? Or are we striving to **detach** ourselves from the passing things of this world, to live in the world but not be of the world and its influences, but rather be about the business of building up Christ’s Kingdom in truth and love? A good question to ponder on this last Sunday of Ordinary time as we get ready for Advent and the Christmas season.
2. **Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end of everything.** All human history originates in Him, and is completed in Him at the end of time. He tells us in the Gospel of John today, “*For this I was born and for this I came into the world to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.*” **What does that mean, to belong to the truth?** Well, the truth Jesus is speaking about is the reality of God, who He is, who we are, and what He has revealed to us through our Catholic faith for the purpose of our eternal salvation. Are we seeking out this truth, each day, about God, about ourselves, and about our fellow man? **How do we go about this?** By daily prayer, by regular spiritual reading of the Bible and the lives of the saints and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (coming to our adult ed class on Sundays can help with that), by watching

E.W.T.N. the Catholic channel, and just regularly reflecting and studying, all of which help us to learn more about our Catholic faith. Once we start to *belong to the truth*, then Jesus tells us the next step: which is ***to listen to his voice***. *To listen to His voice* means to be **obedient** to Him. Modern people tend not to like the sound of the word obedience. It has connotations of being a child, of not being free, of not thinking. But the Lord's understanding of obedience is quite different. **It is the path to eternal life!** Witness **Jesus in the Agony in the Garden** when He says, *Father, if it be possible, take this cup (of suffering) away from me, but not my will but your will be done.* This must be the **motto** of our lives as well: *not my will but your will O' Lord be done.* We must be about God's will in all things, if we are to build up Christ's kingdom and be a part of that same Kingdom, now and in eternity. **Obedience to the truth, as made known to us through the authoritative teaching of the Catholic Church on faith and morals, is the only path to authentic freedom.** If the truth is not involved in our understanding of freedom, it becomes license and leads to all kinds of harmful errors, be it the breakdown of family life, the lack of protection for human life at the beginning and end of life, the narcissism of our culture, and all the challenges that the world gives us: *to do our own thing instead of listening to Christ and His Church, all of which, the root cause is a false understanding of freedom.* God's will must take precedence over our own or we are in big trouble, as individuals and as a society - just look around to see the effects of this on a daily basis. We are called to be **different** as followers of Christ, to be about the truth not our own self-will. To be a light pointing others to Christ, by a life of self-giving love and goodness.

3. **Do we want Jesus to more and more be the true King of our lives?** If so, then we need to make some **practical resolutions**. **First** to realize the only way to true peace, happiness, and meaning in our lives is having an ever deepening relationship with the Blessed Trinity in the depths of our being. This occurs more and more if we strive daily *to belong to the truth* and *to listen to His voice*, to come to know the truth and then live it: *by a life of deep prayer, by a life of love which means keeping the Lord's commandments from the motive of love not*

*legalism, by obedience which means having a listening heart to the Lord and His Catholic Church which speaks in His name in all things, and finally by asking the Lord to give us daily a greater love of the Cross, i.e., to embrace all our trials and tribulations with more generosity and love for the purification of our own souls and for others. **Second** to look over the past Church year and to honestly assess what we have done well spiritually and what we need to improve in. *Do we need to be more obedient, to pray more, to seek out the Truth as revealed by God in our Catholic faith more, to do more penance and mortification in reparation for our sins and those of others (more than the initial call to penance given in Confession), to come to daily Mass more, to go to Confession more frequently, to possibly seek out a spiritual director who will accompany us and lovingly call us to accountability on a deeper level in our spiritual lives, to be more loving toward our families, neighbors and co-workers, to be more generous and charitable with our time talent and treasure in serving God and neighbor? Whatever it is as we begin Advent next weekend, ask the Lord to help us take the next good step in holiness and remember always He is never outdone in generosity. **Finally** we need **daily to thank the Lord** with grateful hearts (e.g. try to come to Mass on Thanksgiving) for wanting to be the King of our lives; despite our weaknesses He calls us in love to Trust Him and do better each day. **How awesome is His MERCY and LOVE for us!** It is so mysterious and powerful! Remember, He won't force Himself on us as King; we must invite Him in, freely. **But even if we just open the door of our heart a little at first, He will come in that crack and start to work! Wow! His love is SO AMAZING!** Then as we discover how awesome and liberating living in His love and truth is, we will want to have Him reign over more and more aspects of our lives. **This free choice to invite Him to be the King of our lives now in time has an eternal effect:** either it will lead to eternal life for us if we surrender our will, in trust, to His will: which is nothing short of ultimate Truth and Love; or conversely if we say, “no, Lord, I want to be the master of my life; **I want to do it my way.**” Tragically then it will lead to eternal separation and death. **The choice is ours!** God bless you.**