

FROM THE DESK OF **Fr. Julius**

Brothers and sisters in Christ; Grace and peace!



By tradition, this thirty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary time closes out the year and transitions into the coming Season of Advent. Holy Mother Church wisely marks this last Sunday with the Solemnity of Christ the King who reigns over all creation, forever! Concurrently, we will be celebrating Thanksgiving and the opportunity to welcome any friends and family members into our parish worship. Mass will be Celebrated 9am on Thanksgiving morning, which is considered the absolute supreme act of thanksgiving.

The source of Christ the King dates back to Pope Pius XI in 1925 at a time when intense turmoil prevailed within the European nations. In direct response to the rising tide of secularism,

Pope Pius XI established the Feast to remind the Church and the world exactly *who* was the True Leader of the Nations. As another rising tide of secularism repeats itself today, what better reminder have we than today's Feast of Christ the King? Although 'royalty' has never been a part of the American fabric, we Catholics are all bound to give obedience to Christ, first and foremost. How we honor Him is to follow and rely on Him as the center of our lives so that he reigns in our minds, hearts, wills, body, members. Christ the King is never absent from our liturgy.

In today's Gospel, Jesus faces Pilate. Although Jesus' adversaries have tried to portray Jesus only as a messianic impostor to the throne of David, Jesus says, "My kingdom does not belong to this world." It is a Kingdom that has come to "testify to the truth and everyone who belongs to the truth." In fact, Jesus' whole life has been a revelation, defense, and witness to this truth — His central message since the beginning of His ministry. Jesus' kingdom is not one of power, of imposed authority or domination. It is a new kingdom where the chief goal is to welcome all people to fullness of life and humanity according to the original design of God.

The above thoughts might make us reflect on how Christ the King goes incognito in the physical and spiritual hunger of many of our friends, neighbors, homeless and the destitute. Our Lord says, "Whatever you do to the least of my brethren, you do it unto me." Indeed, this is an invitation for us to embrace a suffering humanity much like St. Francis of Assisi and Blessed Mother Teresa, praying for the love of Christ within us; not in big portions necessarily, but in the Little selfless acts which begin in our homes, that tender generosity to one's immediate family members.

Blessed Feast of Christ the King and Happy Thanksgiving!