

November 26, 2006
Feast of Christ the King

Good Morning! Today we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King as we have already talked about. And again, if you are one of these people who know anything about our church you don't just come and "oh, yea? Not just in the end of time – He is going to be the beginning and the end – it is that simple. You might do it – you might believe it, you might not – it really doesn't matter! God is God – He is the Alpha and the Omega. And so often, when I deal with people either in spiritual direction or in confession or if I am going around giving a talk – my line I use constantly is Jesus Christ is the only thing that matters – He is all that matters. When everything comes down to it – when you and I take our last breath here on earth – when our eyes close for the last time – He is going to be the only thing that matters. He is the only thing that matters, because He gives us life eternal. He is the only thing that matters, because He gives us life, and what happens is for Him to be the only thing that matters means He has to be king of our life. King means He is 100% in charge of every part of my life. You know, it's not ok to say "well I go to church, or I try to be a good person..." again, it means He is in charge of absolutely everything! And so, what we have to do is go over our lives and ask "is He in charge of everything – is He the Alpha and the Omega of my life?" And that begins with our time – is God in charge of our time? It's a simple thing to think about. Again, is He in charge of my time – do I have a daily committed prayer life, which I talk about almost every week? But you know no matter how many times I talk about it – some people don't get it – they still don't get it! They try to pray every day – "I try Father..." You don't try – you do! There is no "try" – you do! You don't try to eat every day, you don't try to watch TV every day – you do it because it is important to you! If Christ is your king – you never build Him into your day – you build your day around Him. So think – let's go through this together – is God in charge of my time? Is He king of my time? No excuses – if He is king – there is no excuse! If He is in charge, He is in charge – not me! I don't make the decisions about what to do with my time – He makes the decisions about what to do with my time because He is king of my time. First thing...hmmm. Second thing – is God in charge of my thoughts? Saint Paul says "I hold all of thoughts captive to the Holy Spirit." And again, I told you before, in 1990 when I was in the World Wide Retreat for Priests in Rome, and Sister Brige McKenna was there, and she talked about how holy 6,000 priests were there, "oh Fathers, you are so holy..." and she built us up and then she slapped us in the stomach really hard because she says "because God isn't the least bit concerned at how you look at everybody else, He is concerned about your thoughts and your heart. He reads your thoughts and your heart. So what is it Father that you think about a lot? What is it that your heart is filled with? Is it filled with lust Fathers? Are you thinking of lustful things all of the time and seeing God's sons and daughters as creatures of God, or as objects of your lust? Are you looking at these people as people who are in God's image or not? How about Fathers, your anger, do you get angry with people? Oh, Father, do you think about material things, or do you think about the things of God?" And we all just sat there and our heads got lower, and lower, and lower, because she was killing us! Is God king of your thoughts? Is God king of your sexuality? You know, our sexuality sometimes we try to keep to ourselves, you know "this is my thing, you know God, you are in charge of everything else, but my sexuality is my sexuality."

Well if He is not king of everything, His is king of nothing! So, is He in charge of your sexuality? Do you surrender your sexuality every day and say “Lord, I want you to be in charge of my sexual life – not me! You, Lord, I want you to be in charge of my sexual life.” Is He in charge of our money – we talked about that a couple of weeks ago. Is God completely in charge of my money? Do I decide what to spend my money on, or does God decide because it is His money? Is He king of my money? And we can go on and on and on about the things that God is in charge of my life on! And if He is not – you can’t go crazy over this – you have to acknowledge it and you have to repent! Repentance is a big deal for us, right? When I acknowledge that I am not doing what God wants, then I sit there and I go...“oh I’m sorry God, change my heart.” And He will. “Lord, I want you to be in charge of my time, Lord I give it to you. Lord, I want you to be in charge of my thoughts, I give them to you. Lord, I want you charge of my sexuality, I give it to you. Lord, I want you to be in charge of my money, I give it to you. Lord, I want you to be king of my life, holding nothing back. A couple of weeks back, it was the anniversary of Padre Meo, one of the priests in Mexico who was killed, remember Mexico City went through a very bad time where there was persecution against the Catholic Church – just to be a priest you would be killed. So, Padre Meo was one of these men who kept giving his life every day for Christ and they captured him, and as they captured him, and he was going to be shot. And as he is shot, they are all there and lined up and here comes this priest and this priest says “may God forgive all of you and may God bless all of you.” And he opens up his arms, and in one hand he has a crucifix and in the other hand he has a rosary and he cries out “long live Christ the King.” And then they kill him. He gave his life for Christ the King. Do we give our life for Christ the King? Is He king of every part of my life that it causes me to die to myself, to my wants, to my desires and let Christ be in charge? That you are my King, Lord, not me. And so, that is what has to happen. And again, this is the last week in the Church year. Next Saturday night begins Advent and the new Church year. So again, we have to take an account. And those of you who have been a part of the community for awhile, I like to do this every year – those of you who are new, you are going to hate me! But the reality is – I want you to think about last year – the Sunday after Thanksgiving. You all remember the day after Thanksgiving? It was a year ago! And I want you to think about your life this year. Have you grown spiritually this year? And can you show me how you have grown spiritually this year? Has this year – from last Thanksgiving to this thanksgiving – where you have grown better in life? And you can show me that! “Yea, Father, I finally started dealing with some sin, and I finally got control of some sin, by the grace of God...; yea, Father, I finally started spending time with the word of God every morning or every night, or twice a day, or yea, Father I’ll start going to extra daily Masses during the week because I can; I say a rosary every day now...” Can you show me concrete examples of ways you have grown this year spiritually? And if you say “well, no Father, I haven’t grown but I haven’t gotten any worse, you know, last year and this year, it’s about the same, I’m just the way I was last year, this year...” Well that means you haven’t grown at all! What’s that mean? You’re dead! You’re dead! Because part of life is what? To grow! When you stop growing – you are dying! You hate me, don’t you? I know you do! I know some of you pray for my death every day, but I’m not going! It’s not going to happen! “I hate when he challenges me!” Because you pray for my death, I will live to be 150 – thank you very much!

The reality is – is that each of us has to sit there and ask “am I growing in the Lord?” Am I more in love with Jesus than I was last year at this time? And can I prove that? If not, then this is the time for New Year’s resolutions in the spiritual life! And don’t sit there and think “ok, Father, you make me feel guilty, I hate when you make me feel guilty, Father, ok, I’m going to try to do better this year...” **Come here – WHACK!** You’re going to try to do better this year...are you out of your mind? If you’re going to “try,” it’s not going to work! It’s “I will do better this year Father!” “Thank you!” That means He is king now! Instead of “trying” that means you are in charge and you’ll “try the best you can...” That does not mean that Christ is King! If Christ is King, there is no trying – there is doing! And that means “yes, Father, I am going to deal with the sin in my life – period – it is done, I am dealing with it by the grace of God!” And instead of “yes, Father, I am going to try to pray more...” That’s not enough! “I am going to pray five minutes a day more, Father.” Or, “Father, I’m going to go one extra a week to daily Mass.” Or “Father, I’m going to start reading the bible every day.” Or, “Father, I going to start reading the bible every night before I go to bed.” Or, “Father, I’m going to start a prayer journal, or I’m going to pray the rosary every day, like you asked me to at the beginning of the year, or pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet.” You have to make it concrete! How will you grow this year spiritually? “Father, I’m going to finally give an hour, you have been on my case for a year, so I am finally going to give an hour to Jesus...” Oh, let’s rejoice!!! What are you doing to grow? Have you grown this past year, and what will you do this coming year to grow in your relationship with Jesus Christ? It is very important for all of us, huh? We have to sit there and we have to know that if we listen to the gospel today, and I know you all did, Jesus Christ says “my kingdom is not of this world...” Where is your kingdom? Is it in this world? Is it in what you do? Is it in making money? Is it in being healthy, sitting there and being healthy and taking care of your needs and your wants and your desires? Or is your kingdom in Jesus Christ – being madly in love with Jesus, only wanting to please Him? Do you have a goal in your life that every day Jesus Christ looks at you He smiles? That every day He looks at you He says “well done, good and faithful servant?” Do you have a desire in your life to make Christ Jesus your king? Smile every day He looks at you, because He is the only thing that matters. He is the Alpha and the Omega – He is the King. Is your kingship in this world, or is your kingdom in Christ Jesus? May each of you know His love today and forever! Amen!