

Solemnity of Christ the King

I received many requests to write this Homily out in full sentences. I am in the process of completing a written version; it will be available by Friday, December 1st.

I will post it on my website: www.DeaconJeff.wordpress.com

I) Thanksgiving

- A) Welcome visitors, Blessed Thanksgiving
- B) Holiday weekend – Offer the Eucharist, our prayer of Thanks
- C) Keep God in Thanksgiving, Christ in Christmas

II) End of Matthew's Gospel, End of Liturgical Year

- A) Solemnity of Christ the King of the Universe –
- B) How old?
- C) middle ages? European Monarchies? King Charlemagne?
- D) Surprise! 1925! One of our most recent Solemnities
- E) Pope Pius XI, a time when most Monarchies, if still existent, limited by Constitutions
- F) What is this Solemnity all about?

III) Begin by asking What Kind of King?

- A) Supreme Monarch, Hobbes Leviathan? Power, Honor, Fear
- B) Good Shepherd, first reading
 - 1) As a shepherd with his flock
 - 2) I will rescue them, I will give them rest

- 3) The lost I will seek out, the strayed I will bring back, the injured I will bind up, the sick I will heal
- 4) Stained glass window closest to our Marian Shrine
- C) Davidic King – we have found the Messiah, the Anointed One!
- D) Emmanuel! GOD WITH US!

IV) Presents us with a challenge...

- A) Jesus NOT a wise teacher, spiritually enlightened man, philosopher, prophet, or even holy man
- B) NOT someone whose teachings we can pick and choose, follow when convenient, take on as wise advice that we apply at our choosing.
- C) Not a teacher we set aside time to read or discuss at OUR convenience, when it suits us.
- D) Word of God, Word made flesh, Son of God, God and Man
- E) If Jesus just a wise, holy, spiritual teacher, then we are in charge, we decide when and what to listen to and follow
- F) If we truly believe, as we (will) profess, that Jesus is Son of God, both Man and God,
- G) Then what we have heard, what we have read in Matthew, and the other Gospels, is the very Word, teachings, and deeds of the author and creator of our life, of everything!
 - 1) And we must acknowledge all of it, at all times, and in every aspect of our lives.
 - 2) In stark contrast to society's expectation that religion be kept private and hidden, "separated" from all but our private life
 - 3) Brings us back to Pope Pius XI . . .
 - 4) Pope Pius XI response to secularism, the diminishing or removal of religion from public life

- V) Christ is King over ALL of our lives – Second Reading Paul – (I Cor)
- A) “Lord of our Lives” or “Christ the Integrator” or “Solemnity of Integrity
 - B) In All of our many roles
 - C) Can’t keep our faith hidden and private, – No Clark Kent Catholics
 - 1) In the world we keep our true selves hidden, disguised and mild mannered, hidden behind our grey flannel suits and glasses
 - 2) Only to dash in on Sunday, cape blowing in the breeze, as Super Disciples! Only to hide our true selves for the rest of the week.
 - D) Not about giving Christ an hour on Sunday, a few minutes before meals, our quiet time when no one is watching . . .
 - E) We imitate Christ, our Lord. We give our **WHOLE** selves, our **WHOLE** lives, risings and fallings, comings and goings, beginnings and ends, all our many roles and activities . . .
 - F) SKD: “Ours is the Spirit of the Eucharist, the total gift of self!”
- VI) How to Keep Christ not only in Christmas, but in Everything!
- A) Good question! Is there a practice, a method, an app for this?
 - B) Prayer! Be people of prayer!
 - C) What is prayer? Lifting of the mind and heart to God
 - D) Easiest way to keep Christ in everything you do, is to pray in everything you do
 - E) No matter where you are, who you are with, what you are doing
 - F) Pause, quiet down, and lift your mind and heart to God.
- VII) Called to bring Christ’s light to the world
- A) End of Matthew, every Gospel – Christ our Lord commands us to “Preach the Good News to the Nations...”
 - B) Gospel – Judged on how well we loved Christ’s “little ones”

C) In contrast with society – Faith as a private, hidden hobby that informs but does not rule your public self.

D) Conform your religious beliefs to the standards of society

1) “Clark Kent” Catholics

E) In this environment:

1) If you proclaim the Gospel, teach the truth, you will meet resistance. Who are you to tell me what is right?

2) If you proclaim the Church’s teachings on what is right and good, you will meet resistance. Who are you to tell me how to live?

F) What are we then to do?

G) Again, Prayer – private prayer – good will and curiosity

1) This works! Try it!!!

VIII) Practice what you preach, deacon! Experiences at work . . .

A) Federal Government . . . Christmas memos

1) The Great Tree Debate – Snowflakes only!

2) Supercharged environment

B) Liturgy of the Hours

1) Afraid to ask, Curiosity compels them to sneak

2) Spiritual hunger

C) “Pray for my mother and sister”

D) The Rosary – John Paul that Rosary!!!

1) Work, shopping, . . . and at School

2) Letter from Frederick County Public School Legal Beagle

IX) Summary – The Solemnity of Christ, King of the Universe:

A) Calls us to welcome Christ as King, Christ as Lord, over every part of our private and public lives

B) Easiest path is to become people of prayer.

- C) Let others see your works of mercy
- D) Let others see you at prayer:
- E) That they may know the One who is the source of your good works,
- F) And come to know you as a person of prayer.

X) We begin our new life of prayer, in prayer together:

Lord Jesus,

You are always at prayer for us, and yet how little we lift our minds and hearts to you.

Teach us to pray, call us to prayer each and every hour of the day, in all our works, public and private.

May others see our works of mercy,
and know us as a people of prayer

That they may be called to the source of our works, our prayer, our joy
and our hope,

You, Lord Jesus Christ,
Our Shepherd and King.

Amen.