

Christ The King Sunday 2008

11-23-2008

Homily

Deacon Bob Corsaro

Readings: Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17; 1 Corinthians 15:20-26,28

Matthew 25: 31-46

Today we come together to worship and celebrate Christ the King.

As I was preparing to preach on this special occasion, I took a look at the readings for today. I was very pleased to see this passage from the Gospel of Mathew....You see, Jesus has touched my heart by the words he speaks here and I have witnessed the lives of others touched also!

Jesus speaks with love for us, encourages us to reach out to others, and in doing so, he reveals himself and his Kingdom to us.

.Yes, Jesus Christ the King is showing us how to see him.

Now, You might ask me, Deacon Bob, how can we see Jesus?.

How do we experience the kingdom of God today? I would answer, "Hmmmmm, I'm glad you asked me that question!"

Let me illustrate for u this way: Lets ...you and me.. go back in time a bit and pay Mother Teresa a visit!! Eavesdrop on a day in her life.

Keep your eyes and your hearts open now!!

Mother Teresa's daily ministry was spent caring for the poor and dying in the streets of Calcutta. Some say the poorest of the poor.

A successful business man from the U.S. was searching for something more in his life...deeper meaning. Something other than wealth, fancy home, fast cars.

He decided to visit Mother Teresa at her convent in Calcutta, When he arrived, the good Sisters welcomed him in and directed him to a room they had prepared for him.

He was told Mother Teresa would be with him shortly.

After a while, a knock came on his door and upon opening, there stood Mother Teresa.

She smiled and said to him, “come with me.”

She led him into the hot, steamy streets of the poor and dying. AS they walked along they came upon a man who lay dying at the curb. His body was soiled, covered with filth and worms. Skin and bones.

She told this businessman to pick him up.

“What” he said? **“Pick him up.”**

So he picked him up and carried this dying man back to the convent.

Mother Teresa led them to a Tub and instructed the visitor to undress the dying man and place him in the tub and bathe him.

The dying man did not curse, he did not blame anyone, he Just said, “I’ve lived like an animal in the street, but I am going to die like an angel, loved and cared for.”

It took over three hours to clean him. Finally the Man looked up At the Sister and the visitor, looked in their eyes and said, “Thank you, I am going home to God now”, then he died.

Upon reflection, Mother Teresa said she had never seen such a radiant smile on a human face as the one she saw on that man's face. "He went home to God". She said "see what the gift of God's love and grace can create between us?"

Now she went on, its possible that the visitor did not think it at the moment, but as he touched & washed the body of the dying man, he was cleansing the body of Jesus.

Mother Teresa, upon reflection, quoted today's Gospel reading, "Lord when did we see you? Jesus' responded Amen I say to you, Whenever you do for the least of my brethren , you do to me."

(Pause.....)

Someone once said to Mother Teresa, "I wouldn't do this for a million dollars!"

She responded with a twinkle in her eye, "Neither would I."

It's not about money. On that day in Calcutta, Gods Kingdom was present right there as the dying man was cleansed and treated with compassion and dignity.

Today, Jesus Christ, our humble King is showing us where to find him... through acts of Love... Love for God and Love for one another. Caring for one another.

You see, Jesus' kingship is one of compassion, healing,..... doing his best to help people flourish. Its what his kingdom is about.

And it is present right here with us today. As WE reach out to others as Jesus did. Our parish Thanksgiving basket drive is going to feed over 150 families.....Stephen Ministry, one on one crisis ministry, or how about something as simple as befriending an unpopular, lonely student at school, or take a little time to visit an elderly homebound neighbor?

We kindle a blessing on those we reach out to and also to ourselves. These are Graced filled moments.

Today's Gospel message reaffirms this. Jesus is to be found in the hungry and the thirsty, the unwelcome stranger, the unpopular schoolmate, the sick, the dying, the homeless, the grieving.

He is to be found amongst the poor and the suffering, and he continues to suffer in them.

When we open our hearts and use the gifts Jesus has given us, our talents for the good of the community, we become the hands of Christ.... WE saw this last weekend when our three teens witnessed to us about their relationship with Jesus.

This week is the final week of our liturgical year. AS we look forward to the advent season, and in a few moments come forward to receive the body of Christ, let's carry the following with us:

Christ our King, one solitary life:

He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in still another village, where he worked in a carpenter shop until he was thirty.

He was an itinerant preacher.

He never wrote a book.
He never held an office.
Didn't raise a family or own a house.

He never traveled 200 miles from the place where he was born.
He did none of the things one usually associates with the model of a king.
He had no credentials but himself.

He was only 33 when the tide of public opinion turned against him.
His friends ran away.
He was turned over to his enemies and went through the mockery of a trial.
He was nailed to a cross between 2 thieves.

While he was dying, his executioners gambled for his clothing, the only property he had on earth.

When he was dead he was laid in a borrowed tomb, through the pity of a friend.

20 centuries have come and gone, and today he is the central figure of the human race.

All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned put together, have not affected our lives here on earth as much as this one solitary life.

Thank You Jesus, the Christ, Our king.

