

Father Rudy's Reflections  
The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe  
November 26, 2023

### Is Jesus Truly the King in Your Life?

My Brothers and Sisters in the Risen Lord,

*"For when I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me"*  
(Matthew 25:35-40).

Today is the Feast of Christ the King, the last Sunday of the liturgical year, in which Our Lord Jesus Christ's kingship is celebrated in Matthew's Gospel with a final parable of God's kingdom in a broken world. In this chilling, apocalyptic parable that metaphorically describes mankind as goats and sheep that are ultimately separated and judged through the lens of God's sovereignty and by the way he instructs us to live. This passage is especially poignant given the backdrop of violence, corruption, despair, and inhumanity that continues to infect our world, especially at this particular moment in time. We can and must live better lives, lives dedicated to Jesus Christ as the Good Shepherd whose life and ministry showed us the path to eternal salvation.

The Feast of Christ the King, instituted in 1925 by Pope Pius XI, responded to growing secularism and atheism. He recognized that attempting to "thrust Jesus Christ and his holy law" out of public life would result in continuing discord among people and nations. This solemnity reminds us that while governments come and go, Christ reigns as King forever. It encourages us to celebrate and live out our faith in a public way.

In this context, I ask you to examine your conscience each day and ask yourself: Is Jesus truly the King of my life? And second, with an open and compassionate heart, am I participating in his mission here on earth? The atrocities we are seeing on television these days and the mind-numbing unkindness we are witnessing show the hunger, thirst, loneliness, alienation, and hate that seem to be enveloping the world. And in this regard, are you a shepherd or a goat? Are you operating in tandem with Christ in a spirit of compassion, grace, and mercy toward others, or are you clothed in moral superiority, self-piety, and egocentrism? Look within, move out of yourself toward other people, in what they need and what you can do to help them, and you will find a joy you cannot imagine. Whether it is in performing small acts of kindness or with a great transformation of heart by helping to relieve some form of tragic suffering in the world, living with mercy and compassion is what Jesus is asking us all to do to live out our Baptism. We participate in his kingdom by our love.

*"Jesus Christ, you have heard Him spoken of, indeed the greater part of you are already His—you are Christians. So, to you Christians I repeat His name, to everyone I proclaim Him—Jesus Christ is the beginning and the end, the Alpha and the Omega. He is the king of the new world. He is the secret of history. He is the key to our destiny."*—Saint Pope Paul VI

Yours in Christ,  
Father Rudy