



St. Anne
CATHOLIC
COMMUNITY

November 21, 2010 The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King

He delivered us from the power of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption and the forgiveness of sins. Colossians 1:13-14

Dear Friends;

When Diana, Princess of Wales, died in Paris in 1997 she had already been relieved of the title “Her Royal Highness.” As the mother of the future heir to the throne she was considered to be considered part of the royal family, however, she was not part of the monarchy. She no longer had a palace or wore a crown or performed any official duties on behalf of the Queen.

Even without these outward signs of royalty, Diana had endeared herself to the British people and people throughout the world. They called her the “Queen of Hearts.” The outpouring of love for her pressured the royal family into giving her a state funeral, even though that violated the rigid royal code of etiquette.

Today, we celebrate a paradox. We claim Jesus as our King. But his Kingship is unlike any other monarchy this world has ever seen. He does not have a royal palace other than our hearts. His crown is made of thorns, his throne—the cross. Instead of a royal scepter he carries a towel with which he washes his disciples’ feet. His Kingship is not conferred by earthly power and symbol but by God’s own doing. And God confounds the power structures of this world.

Jesus is not a conquering warrior astride a fearsome steed but an itinerant preacher sitting on a donkey. He has no army but followers who were often the poor, rejected and despised by this world. His command is to love and forgive.

Jesus rules with compassion and forgiveness. He comes not to dominate but to save. His rule undermines the powers of violence and domination. His power is the persuasive power of love. And he invites us to join in the work of spreading his kingdom by living as he did—a generous self-gift.

Today on this celebration of Christ the King we recall the only gift of value that we have is the gift of Christ, his love and friendship. **Our Covenant is a partnership with him** and one another. We find him in our **worship**, in **connecting** with each other in his body, **growing** in our knowledge of him and our gifts, and in **servicing** him in the needs of others. **Today we renew that commitment in our St Anne Covenant.** And we assist each other in living it out.

Today is an opportunity for you to give thanks for this past year of faith and seriously consider what commitment you would like to make. Next week begins our new liturgical year with the first Sunday of Advent. It is a good time to think about the coming year. Will you not join us in our effort to bring Jesus Christ our Lord to the world?

Peace,

Fr Ron