



November 22, 2009 The Solemnity of Christ The King

Jesus answered, "You say I am a king. For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

John 18:37

Dear Friends;

Today we celebrate the Feast of Christ The King. At a time when Benito Mussolini was in power and began using the title *Il Duce* (The Leader) Pope Pius XI instituted this feast day. Pius XI wanted to remind Christians their allegiance was to a heavenly leader not an earthly leader such as Mussolini.

Pius XI addressed Christ's Kingship in his encyclical *Quas Primus*. He writes "Christ has dominion over all creatures, a dominion not seized by violence nor usurped, but his by essence and by nature." In 2006 Pope Benedict XVI in *Catholic World News* said that "Christ's Kingship is not based on human power but on loving and serving others."

In the Gospel of John read today Jesus tells us his kingdom is not of this world and will not even say that he is a King. Pilate asks if he is the King of the Jews and Jesus' reply is "You say that I am."

So what does all this mean for us besides giving us hope that one day we will all be together in Jesus' kingdom? It is another opportunity to see how we are called to live as Christians.

Jesus shows us that he is a person of peace, a servant leader. He does not use the power he has to over throw those who are against him. Through out the Gospels Jesus continually keeps to his message of peace and calls us to do the same.

A few years ago there was a book out by Robert Fulghum titled, "All I Really Need To Know I Learned in Kindergarten". Fulghum learned the following:

Share everything.

Play fair.

Don't hit people.

Put things back where you found them.

Clean up your own mess.

Don't take things that aren't yours.

Say you're sorry when you hurt somebody.

Wash your hands before you eat.

Flush.

Warm cookies and cold milk are good for you.

Live a balanced life - learn some and think some and draw and paint and sing and dance and play and work every day some.

Take a nap every afternoon.

When you go out in the world, watch out for traffic, hold hands and stick together.

Be aware of wonder. Remember the little seed in the Styrofoam cup: the roots go down and the plant goes up and nobody really knows how or why, but we are all like that.

Goldfish and hamsters and white mice and even the little seed in the Styrofoam cup - they all die. So do we.

And then remember the Dick-and-Jane books and the first word you learned - the biggest word of all - LOOK.

Everything you need to know is in there somewhere. The Golden Rule and love and basic sanitation. Ecology and politics and equality and sane living.

Take any one of those items and extrapolate it into sophisticated adult terms and apply it to your family life or your work or government or your world and it holds true and clear and firm. Think what a better world it would be if we all - the whole world - had cookies and milk at about 3 o'clock in the afternoon and then lay down with our blankies for a nap. Or if all governments had as a basic policy to always put things back where they found them and to clean up their own mess.

And it is still true, no matter how old you are, when you go out in the world, it is best to hold hands and stick together.

So on this Feast of Christ the King let us remember the life our King lived, let us remember how he calls us to live and let us remember what we learned in Kindergarten and live that way daily - with our family members, with our fellow parishioners, with our neighbors and with anyone else we meet in our lives..

Peace,

Lisa