

CHRIST THE KING 2020

- Many of the Church's great saints were also soldiers...like St. Martin of Tours.
 - We just had his feast day on the 11th...Veterans day!
 - He joined the Roman army at the age of nineteen.
 - But unlike other soldiers his age...he was a sensitive and spiritual man.
 - He was drawn to the teaching of Jesus...
 - and was inspired by the lives of the Christians he knew...
 - but he himself was never baptized.
- Well one day...
 - he was standing guard by a city gate...
 - when he noticed a beggar who was shivering in the cold.
 - St. Martin took his sword...
 - cut his cloak in half...and gave it to the beggar.
 - That night...
 - he had a dream in which Jesus appeared to him...
 - wearing the cloak he had given the beggar.
 - In the dream...Jesus was telling his angels...
 - *"This is Martin who shared his cloak with me."*
 - When he woke up the next morning...
 - he arranged to be baptized...left the army...
 - and dedicated his entire life...
 - to both serving the poor...and to defending our faith.
- Saint Martin experienced the promise that Christ makes in our gospel.
 - Whatever we do for the poor...for the hungry...for the suffering...
 - we do it all for Jesus.
 - And at the same time...
 - whenever we turn our back on them...
 - we turn our back on Him.
- Today we celebrate the feast of Christ the King.
 - We know that earthly rulers love to live in splendid palaces...
 - wearing the finest of clothes.
 - They move in circles of wealth and power.
 - But Jesus...and His Kingship...are very different!
 - Though He is Almighty and can do whatever He wills...
 - He chooses to associate with the poor...the meek...the humble...
 - just look at the conditions in which He chose to be born.
- And so if Jesus seems distant from us...
 - if we have had trouble finding Him in our lives...
 - beyond here at church...
 - and wonder if He is really with us as we go about our day...
 - well maybe we've been looking in the wrong place.
 - Perhaps we need to find Him...
 - in the people He strongly identifies with...
 - in service to the poor.

- Now of course...poverty comes in many different forms.
 - Because people with plenty of food and money...
 - can be poor in other ways.
 - They may find themselves isolated and lonely...
 - or lacking direction and meaning in their lives.
 - There is simply no poverty like spiritual poverty...
 - of not knowing the love and mercy of Jesus Christ.
 - So besides feeding the hungry and clothing the naked...
 - we are also need to pray for those who have died...
 - comfort those who mourn...
 - counsel those who are confused...
 - and teach those who are in error.
 - If we love Jesus and desire to serve Him...
 - we must be ready to provide for the needs of others...
 - no matter what those needs might be.
 - And we have to do this with trust...
 - because if God puts a person of need in our path...
 - He will also provide...
 - what we need to help them...
 - even if it's just pointing them in the right direction.
 - And this doesn't have to be complicated at all...
 - As Mother Teresa used to say...
 - to those who desired to go to Calcutta.
 - The poor are everywhere...
 - you can serve them at home.
 - COVID is running rampant right now...
 - there are many people in need...
 - right in our own homes and neighborhoods.
 - It's also spreading at our seminary.
 - And one of the seminarians took it upon himself...
 - to start cooking soup for those who are sick...
 - and cooking breakfast on the weekends...
 - for the other guys he's isolated with...
 - to help bolster their spirits.
 - Little actions like that...with great love...
 - that's what has the greatest effect.
- Like St. Martin experienced...
 - the poor are always at our gates...
 - we just need to open our eyes.
 - So perhaps turn that into a prayer...asking the Lord's help.
 - Show me Lord...the poor at my own door...
 - and give me all that I need...to serve You in them.
- There really is no better way to serve Christ our King!