



CHRIST THE KING – NOVEMBER 24, 2019

Today we call to mind the dedication of our Church Building which took place 28 years ago on November 23, 1991. It is also the year in which we celebrate the 56th. Anniversary of the establishment of our parish. We started with 600 families then and now have 2400.

I want to thank all of you again for everything you do, and I want to remind you again of what I said at the dedication ceremony 28 years ago.

You do not measure the worth of a parish by the amount of money it has in the bank. The worth of a parish is measured by how it follows the request of Jesus to love God, to love each other and to love ourselves. It is measured by the way we help each other when we are able to help.

We now have some people who no longer contribute to the Sunday collection because of the scandals and coverups across the country and they don't want any money going to those kinds of expenses. I understand that. But in the process of doing that, many good people are deprived of the kind of help they need, and the guilty people are not deprived of anything.

Our parish mission statement is found at the top of our bulletin each week. It is probably the shortest mission statement in the whole diocese and perhaps in the whole country. It simply says, "We are a stewardship parish and a Eucharist centered people." You can find all of that explained on our parish web site at "my-olph.org".

The Eucharist is the bread that came down from heaven. It continues to sustain us. It enables us to grow. Each time we receive our Lord in the Eucharist, we become more like our Lord - unless we decide otherwise.

As I have said often these past 31 years, the real pastor of this parish is Jesus. He is the good shepherd. The minute we forget that, all the money in the world is not going to make us a good parish.

The scripture readings today remind us that Jesus is a king who is radically different from king David. David presided over the land of the dying. Jesus presides over the land of the living. David was a king **among** kings. Jesus is the king of all kings.

The kingdom of Jesus is not of this world. He came to serve, not to be served. In the Gospel we hear again that his service was totally self-less, even to his death on the cross.

What Jesus did for the young criminal on his cross, he does for us too. He forgives us, no matter how great our sins may be. Why would he do that after what we did to him - he does it because he loves us. We are redeemed in spite of the cross, not because of the cross. We are redeemed because he loves us. He accepted the cross because he loves us.

For a few moments in silence, reflect on what he asks of us in return.