

The newest season of the TV Drama “The Crown” was released this week. It is a dramatization of the life of Queen Elizabeth II and the British royal family. We do seem to have some fascination with royalty. We look to the power, the privilege, the esteem, and the ideal of perfection that royals are supposed to project to the world. However, as series like this show, the individuals are far from perfect, their power is limited, their privilege is at times a burden, and they are not always held in great esteem. But still we look at them with some deep-down idea of royalty that we long for. Today we celebrate the Solemnity of Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. In him we have a sovereign who is a model of perfection to be looked to, one who does not have limited human authority but unlimited power, one whose privilege cannot be questioned, and one who is always just. However, due to His gracious nature, and due to His not using His power to force us into subjection - many do not hold Him in the esteem that He is due. We as Catholic Christians must always remember the king who sits eternally above our changing human rulers, the giver of a law that surpasses our feuding political parties and their attempts at legislation, and a model of perfection that we cannot see on this earth. What we yearn for when we look to royalty is a glimpse of that perfection of royal dignity that is found only in God.

We continue to maintain ourselves and to provide a continued level of worship of God, spiritual growth, and charitable outreach that is outstanding. We worship regularly, funeral Masses are celebrated for our beloved dead, our school is open and running, we continue to have weekly Bible Study, Intercessory Prayer Group, and educational programs to help enrich individuals between the weekends, and our St. Vincent DePaul council maintains our care and outreach to those in need in our community. We have not let the pandemic stop us. As I have mentioned in the past, I am looking to set the stage for the end of the pandemic (which, please God, will be soon), so that we can resume the project of growth we had been in.

With winter coming and months between responses from contractors, we are still moving slowly with relocation projects. Things are not forgotten, just delayed. If anyone is aware of someone with a construction license, or licensed plumbers or electricians who may be willing to be part of this work - please ask them to contact me.

It has been difficult to get the Pastoral Council together for various reasons. I was working on it this week. I do want to get more clarity in issues such as the potential changes of some Mass times that we had spoken about. Their advice to me was to not make a change during this disrupted time. Please know that all the comments you made in the parish survey were tabulated and discussed - then COVID hit and has caused many obstacles and delays that I had not anticipated. I will not let your input be forgotten - it is taken very seriously.

All of this further reinforces that we are not in as much control as we would like to believe we are. There is one who is in complete control. Please continue to pray that God's will is made known to us in our efforts at listening to it, and that we cooperate with the one who is our King. Please stay safe and healthy.

God Bless, *Father Steve*