

From the Homily Library of Fr. Callistus Iyorembor

The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Year A – November 22, 2020

JESUS, KING OF OUR LIVES

My dear Brothers and Sisters, one of the courses we take in seminary before ordination is called Homiletics. In Homiletics seminarians basically learn how to preach homilies at Mass. In this class, we are told that a good homily must not be too long: 8 - 12 minutes. It should be precise and straight to the point.

I would like to tell you a story of a priest who - even though he studied Homiletics - was very famous for preaching long homilies. One day he was preaching his homily at Mass and as he went on, he became more animated. He made a sweeping gesture and mistakenly knocked the papers from the ambo. He scrambled to pick them up and then asked "Where was I?" A voice responded from the congregation: "Father, right near the end." My dear friends, we are right near the end today...not the end of my preaching but the end of the Liturgical year.

Our current Liturgical year ends with the Feast of Christ the King. Next Sunday a new Liturgical year will begin with the Season of Advent. Everything in our Liturgical celebration will reflect our preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas. I am talking about our vestments, music, candles, readings and prayers; these will all prepare us for the coming of Christ.

WHY IS THE FEAST OF CHRIST VERY IMPORTANT?

This feast is an important one because it is naming something of central importance; something fundamental to our faith. Jesus really is the King of our lives; Jesus is really Lord of our lives. So, we can say with St. Paul *"it is no longer I who live but it is Christ who lives in me."*

It is similar to what our Protestant brothers and sisters mean when they ask the question: "Have you accepted Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior?"

If we do not love the Lord with all our hearts mind and soul; if we do not submit completely to Him, then He is not King of our lives. In other word in all our private, public, physical, intellectual, all our friendships and our relationships, Jesus must be King. He is the one to whom absolute obedience and allegiance is due.

WHAT DOES THAT LOOK LIKE FOR US RIGHT NOW?

Our culture tells us to keep our religion, our faith private. Don't talk about your faith in public. When we do that then Jesus is not King of our lives. *"Let your light shine before men that seeing your good works, they may give glory to God in heaven."*

What am I proposing today?

- Consider putting a crucifix or a picture of your favorite saint in your office
- Have a Biblical quote as your screensaver on your phone or computer, electronic device.
- How many people in your circle of friends and acquaintances know that you are a Christian? If the answer is no one, then consider making Jesus the King of your life.

PRAYING IN PUBLIC

Do not be afraid to pray in public. How many times have you sat down with your family or with Catholic friends at a restaurant and have simply dug into your food without offering a word of thanks? Again, you need not be showy (like holding hands and singing the Our Father), but a simple, unaffected prayer publicly offered can be a powerful witness to those around you.

INTELLECTUAL LIFE

Is Jesus the King of your intellectual life? What are you reading? With what are you feeding your mind? What are you looking at in your computer? Think seriously about your faith. Sometimes we need to engage people intellectually because that might be the only way the faith might appeal to them. We are a smart religion. Present our faith in an appealing way. We do not want to remain at the sixth grade level in our faith. To help with our intellectual, spiritual life, read serious books.

Ask for the grace to make Jesus the King of our lives. May God bless us all. Amen.