

# BREAKING OPEN THE WORD



Fr. Thomas M. Pastorius

November 23, 2014

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

Lectionary: 160

Gospel [mt 25:31-46](#)

Jesus said to his disciples: "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?' And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me.' Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.' Then they will answer and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?' He will answer them, 'Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.' And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

## Spiritual Reflection:

I have seen death stare at me with my own eyes in a way many cannot know  
I've seen death take others but still leave here below  
I've heard many screams of mother cries but death has refused to hear  
In my life I have seen many faces with many, many tears  
After death has come and gone, a tombstone sites for many to see  
But it serves no more than a symbol of a person's memory  
Under the person's name it reads the date of birth-and the date the person passed  
But the more I think about the tombstone the only important thing is the dash  
Yes, I see the name of the person but that I might forget  
I also read the date of birth and death, but even that might not stick  
But thinking about the person, I can't help but to remember the dash  
Because it represents a person's life and that will always last  
So when you begin to chart your life, make sure you are on a positive path  
Because people may forget your birth and death, but they will never forget your dash  
- Alton Maiden (Notre Dame football player) from Lou Holtz's Winning Every Day: The Game Plan for Success

## Spiritual Question:

1. What are you doing with your dash?
2. What did Jesus do with His dash?
3. How does Christ exercise His Kingship?
4. How does today's Gospel connect with the Law of Love?
5. Why does Jesus choose to wear what St. Vincent DePaul called "most distressing of disguises?"