

## **Our Lord Jesus Christ the King (11/20/11)**

The Feast of Christ the King is the last Sunday of the liturgical year. The readings for the last several weeks have been preparing us for this feast of the culmination of life on earth. At the end of time the King will judge the world. Although many have falsely claimed that a God of Divine Love could never send anyone to hell, it is clear from scripture that God does judge us, and some will go to heaven and some to hell. Or another way of putting it, He allows us to determine our own eternal destiny by the way we live on earth.

I don't think many people believe they are deliberately choosing hell through the way they live, but they live lives that are self-centered and devoid of love for others (especially those who have nothing to give in return). Most people have friends they will treat nicely, but this is not a sign of "love of neighbor" because it is a self-centered "love:" it still revolves around ME. When we care for a human life we do not know, that is a true sign of love of neighbor, as long as we do it from pure love and not to make ourselves feel good. God expects us to care for one another as a reflection of His care for us.

On this feast let us also remember most heartily to allow Jesus to be Lord of every aspect of our lives. If we hold something back, if we do not want God to rule over every part of our lives, then Jesus is not really our Lord and King. Sobering thoughts in today's readings. May we all allow Jesus to rule every minute of our life beginning today! Amen!

## **The Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (11/13/11)**

This Sunday's readings remind us once again that God has a plan for us to accomplish here on earth, a plan that recognizes and builds on our free choice to cooperate with God's grace in the way we live out our lives. God is responsible for all the abilities we have, and He expects us to develop those gifts for the betterment of our world and our neighbors. At the end of our life, God will hold us accountable for the way we have lived our lives. Results aren't God's first concern, the quality of how we strive to live the Gospel message is. And that striving should continue to our last breath, not until we "retire." We never retire from God's work. Another way of saying this is what Mother Theresa said, "God doesn't call us to be successful in life, He calls us to be faithful."

Last week we heard the story about the headhunter, after getting all his CEO candidates relaxed, would then lean forward and ask them, "What is the purpose of your life?" And the best response he got from only one person was, "To get to heaven and take as many people with me as I can." Let us pray that we will be ready to give an accounting of the fidelity of our life at any moment. Then we will be ready to rejoice for eternity with all God's faithful children from all times and places. Amen!

## **The Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (11/06/11)**

Scouts learn early on the motto "Be prepared." I think they learned it from this week's gospel about the wise and foolish virgins awaiting the arrival of the wedding groom. Of

course, the parable is not just speaking about preparing for a wedding but rather preparing for heaven. Our preparation for heaven is not something that should wait until the last minute. In fact our entire life on earth is preparation for eternal life to come, either in the joy of heaven or the despair of hell. If we really want to make good use of our vacation time, don't we plan it? Yes, there are times when we can just play it by ear and be spontaneous. But spontaneity is not reliable for long-term planning!! And especially not for our destination for all eternity!! Eternity sounds so unreal, because we have no standard to measure it by. How much more important that we plan for our future in heaven by the choices we make today. Are we ready?