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HOMILY
KING OF THE UNIVERSE (C)
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“Darkness to Light”

My brothers and sisters, God had always intended that his chosen people be led by a King, but not just any King. His King would be a shepherd King, a King who had the best interest of his people at heart. It began with David of whom God said, “A man after my own heart” (1 Sm 13:14) (Acts 13:22). Meaning David would care for his people as God would care for His people.

As the result of Adam’s sin as the first King of the World, human Kings are born in sin and would always fall short of God’s design for a king. And this was true of David as well. Israel would go through numerous failed kingships. But ultimately God would send His own son Jesus Christ to shepherd His people back to His fold. He will be born in the line of David and be as He called Himself, “The Good Shepherd” (Jn 10:11).

My brothers and sisters, with today’s Feast of Christ the King, we once again arrive at the end of the current liturgical year (2 Sm 5:1-3) (Col 1:12-20) (Lk 23:35-43). Christ was born on Christmas Day; He grew from a boy into a man. At 30 years of age He selected His Apostles, established His Church and began His mission of reclaiming the world and its people for God His Father, and to ultimately establish His Kingdom of light in the world, a world that is Satan’s fallen kingdom of darkness (Mt 4:9).

When Adam chose to do Satan’s bidding in the garden – he in essence gave his allegiance to Satan and removed it from God (Gn 3:6). Adam gave the world of which he was its sole King, to Satan as well. From that time on up until the crucifixion of Jesus Christ the world was Satan’s kingdom.

Jesus, the New Adam, won back the world and humanity to the Father, through his loving obedience. The sign of this victory was the written sign above His head as He hung on the cross, “This is the King of the Jews”. The sign was meant to be a mockery but became a fulfillment of God’s plan. It was purportedly written in several languages indicating His Kingship over the Gentiles as well (Jn 19:20) (CCC 440).

But Jesus’ Kingdom would not come rushing in like some conquering army. His Kingdom would start as a small ray of light in a very dark world. He would not conquer the world with the sword but with love (CCC 541-549). Beginning with his own act of love, by freely choosing to sacrifice His life for His people, the sign of a true shepherd.

The Church that Jesus established will be His chief instrument of light to reclaim a dark and fallen world. These two kingdoms, the kingdom of light and the kingdom of darkness for now live side by side. Jesus said, “By their fruits you will know them”. You will be able to distinguish those of the darkness from those of light.

He said you will know them by their love. Love becomes the light that eventually conquers the kingdom of darkness.

This comingling of darkness and light is a mystery that Jesus reveals in His Gospel, through His many teachings and parables (Jn 18:36) (Col 1:13). Every person is given the opportunity to freely choose which kingdom he will belong to. Those who choose Jesus as their King and are baptized become members of the kingdom of light. Those who do not will remain in the darkness, subjects of Satan and his kingdom of darkness.

Aristotle once said that a kingship is the best form of government, for the Greeks had tried them all. Most political systems today have moved away from a kingship form of government into some form of democracy or dictatorship. But the Kingdom of Jesus Christ still remains. It remains in the hearts of believers, of Christians, and is meant to become evident in the way that they live their lives. The love that Christians have for their fellow man transforms cities, states and countries into kingdoms of light, regardless of what political system they may currently have. But the struggle between the kingdom of darkness and the kingdom of light will remain until Jesus Christ, King of Heaven and Earth returns again and establishes His Kingdom in the world permanently. In the Our Father, we pray “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven”. “Viva Cristo Rey” “Long live Christ the King”. (The Cristeros of Mexico)

NOTE: CCC = Catechism of the Catholic Church