

November 19, 2020



Dear Parishioners,

This coming weekend we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King, a title which probably doesn't sit comfortably in our ears. I'm not sure when this feast began to be celebrated, but I'd guess that most of us think of Jesus more frequently as the healer of the sick and the one who forgave the woman caught in adultery. He is the Good Shepherd, the one we turn to in times of sorrow or confusion.

Matthew's gospel describes the last judgment as "the Son of Man (who) comes in his glory...will sit on his glorious throne" judging the nations and separating the sheep from the goats. "Then the king (thus the name of this feast) will address 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." The righteous ask him when they saw him in such great need. And the king answers: "Amen, I say to you, whenever you did it for one of these least brothers (and sisters, we'd add) you did it for me." We probably recall his words to those on the other side who did not respond to these most basic needs of any human being. They protest that they never saw him in such need. His answer: "What you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me."

This passage is Matthew 25. 31-46, should you want to reflect on the entire passage. It gives me pause and, I daresay, it should give all of us pause, especially at this time in our country during the pandemic. Can we see Jesus suffering in so many people – our neighbors close at hand and our neighbors half a world away? Both groups in the gospel mention seeing. Can we see Jesus in those whose are different from us, culturally, age-wise, religiously or politically? Is there anyone we see as not worthy of our help or our compassion? Yes, it's true that we cannot do everything, we cannot respond to EVERYONE'S need, but are we doing what we CAN do? Is there one act, one attitude I might practice during this Advent (which begins next weekend) which would help me prepare for this coming? May the Holy Spirit show us what is ours to do!

Peace, Sr. Sheral