

FROM THE DESK OF **Fr. Julius**



Brothers and Sisters in Christ; Grace and peace!

Our community of St. Joseph the Worker welcomes our visitors who are fortunate enough to travel and be here with loved ones. Today we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King and His Dominion over our minds, hearts and will. As we concurrently mark the end of our Liturgical Year A. This Feast leads into Advent as we await the Second Coming of Our Lord. The upcoming Thanksgiving observance has a different tone this 2020 and gatherings may be smaller or non-existent, but no amount of Covid can ever change our inexorable Religious Solemnity.

In the first reading, Ezekiel depicts God as the Good Shepherd ready to take control of his flock from the negligent shepherds, a reference to those unreliable kings in Israel. He describes the qualities of a benevolent shepherd, which we find in God. In the second reading, St. Paul presents Christ as the supreme ruler who raises the dead, to whom every other power and authority must eventually submit.

In St. Matthew's rendering of our Lord's Coming in His Heavenly glory, he is focusing on those who have received the grace to inherit His Kingdom. In this context Jesus gives great weight to the way in which we share that grace of love, poured out upon the other. Fully present to us now, Jesus is our good shepherd providing, healing his sheep, dwelling in those to whom we dedicate our compassion. His parable suggests that every person we give ourselves to, "whether the hungry, the thirsty or a stranger, naked, sick or in prison," is the risen Jesus. We risk losing our place in heaven if we fail to recognize that Christ's Kingdom is the true mission of the Church.

Brothers and Sisters, as our liturgical year closes, can we examine ourselves by the following concern? Have I been able to discover the hidden King and God within the suffering, both in and outside our immediate domain? As our Lord goes incognito, does my stony heart melt at the physical and spiritual hunger of the homeless and destitute? ["Whatever you do to the least of my brethren, you do it unto me]." Currently, there may be some restrictions on our activities in the marketplace, but there are no limitations to our commitment to draw ever closer to our Lord as King, when opportunities present themselves.

When Pope Pius XI introduced our Solemnity at St. Peter's Rome, on the eleventh day of the month of December, in the Holy Year 1925, He stated: "It is by a divine inspiration that the people of Christ bring forth Jesus from his silent hiding-place in the church, and carry him in triumph through the streets of the city, so that he whom men refused to receive when he came unto his own, may now receive in full his Kingly rights." The Gift of the Eucharist is the Thanksgiving that we all are graced with, in season and out of season.

Happy Sunday and Blessings this Thanksgiving!