

Feast of Christ the King November 23

(Read the Opening Prayer and Scripture out loud.)

Opening Prayer

King of Glory, you broke the power of evil and made all things new in this world. May all creation rejoice in the splendor of your love. Open our hearts and free the world to share in your justice and the kingdom that is within you and the Holy Spirit, One God forever and ever. Amen.

Scripture

“Whatever gains I had, these I have come to consider a loss because of Christ. More than that, I even consider everything as a loss because of the supreme good of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake, I have accepted the loss of all things and I consider them so much rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having any righteousness of my own based on the law but that which comes of his resurrection and sharing of his sufferings by being conformed to his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.” *(Philippians 3: 7-11)*

(Take time for silent reflection, then read the Introduction out loud.)

Introduction

Through the water of baptism, Jesus invites us to share in his role of King as He inaugurates a divine kingdom that brings peace and reconciliation to a troubled world. The purpose of this program is to understand that we are to love Jesus first above everything else. We need to trust in His ways and use the gifts that God has given us to proclaim the kingdom to all we meet, at home, at work, and at play.

(Introduce a speaker or the facilitator can read the following paragraphs with pauses in between.)

Documentary Tradition

“In the Old Testament, ‘son of God’ is the title given to the angels, the Chosen People, the children of Israel and their kings. It signifies an adoptive sonship that establishes a relationship of particular intimacy between God and his creature.” *(Catechism of the Catholic Church, #441)*

“Jesus’ messianic consecration reveals his divine mission, for the name Christ implies ‘he who anointed,’ ‘who was anointed’ and ‘the very anointing with which he was anointed.’ ... “His eternal messianic consecration was revealed during the time of his earthly life at the moment of his baptism by John.” *(Catechism of the Catholic Church, #438)*

To give glory to Christ the King is to taste the kingdom as Jesus preached it. “Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand,” requires us to step back and take a long look at what this means. We are called first to change, so we can recognize the kingdom within us. When we become aware of the intimate bond between the Kingdom of God, the earth and all of us, we realize that the Kingdom is not made of political structures. Rather, it is one that will be perfected in us over time. Since it is planted into this world through Christ, it is revealed through the all of us. As the Church we become a visible community called together by God to striving to make the kingdom real in this world.

Thus, the kingdom is fully present but not yet completed in the world. It is through the example of Christ and the power of God’s love that the kingdom is revealed in our highest hopes. All those who

would follow Jesus embrace this suffering enduring love. It will be experienced by every one who literally thinks, wills, and acts in full awareness that God is in us and for us. It is through this giving over, we see in Paul's writing that the kingdom becomes a reality that consumes us, and is revealed by our best actions.

(The facilitator can read the Discussion Questions out loud for general or small group discussion.)

Discussion Questions

1. What does kingdom mean to you?
2. What does the Kingdom of God mean to you? How are they different or similar?
3. How are you as a Serran, participating in and proclaiming God's Kingdom?

Closing Reflection

We can see that when presented with the religious traditions of his people and the social situation of his day, Jesus spoke and acted with inspired confidence and dignity. He spoke with and about God in a way that was considered blasphemous by many people. He also did things that pertained to God, such as forgiving sins and casting out demons. This personal ownership and leadership in the Kingdom of God gives us a glimpse of how Jesus behaved in establishing the Kingdom of God on earth. His kingship is love, forgiveness, healing, nurture, with judgement only by the Father.