

34th Sunday in Ordinary Time, 21/11/21, "Christ the King Sunday"

Homily: Fr. Ken

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells Pontius Pilate that his kingdom, his world, is not of this world, but is a world that bears witness to the truthfulness of who people are, the goodness of relationships, and is a place where people show mercy toward those in need.

In Jesus' world, people look after one another and care for one another. They are generous to those who are poor and share their goods with others.

Jesus speaks of bearing witness to the truth that each person is created good by God, given the gift of human freedom, and called to love others in rich and strong relationships.

Jesus witnesses to this world when he helps the woman who is crippled to stand up straight. He continues this in forgiving those who have sinned. He washes the feet of his friends to show them the example of love.

In essence, the world of Jesus, his Kingdom, is one of service in which the power and example of love shines forth.

On this feast celebrating Jesus Christ, our brother and the son of God, we are called to carefully examine our hearts in the light of the attitudes and actions of Christ.

The invitation of Jesus, who is both leader and servant, is for each of us to become persons who serve and reach out to those in need. And this is exactly what our St. Rita parish has been doing in many different ways in our history, especially the past decade and a half.

At the same time, when we examine our emotions, we may find some deeply hidden violent attitudes towards other people,

towards groups of people whom we do not like, toward people of other religions.

What we are called to do, is to discover the truth about ourselves and offer this to the healing grace of our God. When we find these attitudes, then we can ask the Lord to show us his mercy and to heal our hearts.

Advent, which begins next week, is a time of preparation for Christians, when we can become ever more faithful followers of Jesus Christ, and become a people living the values and virtues of justice, love, truth, and peace.

Today we continue to build the Kingdom of God, following the example of Jesus, caring for those in need.

In a few more days, we will celebrate Thanksgiving, amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. In years past we have welcomed your prayers and your financial donations for our Guatemala Mission Project. This year, all of our contributions will be donated to the Hospitalito (the only hospital for the entire town of Santiago Atitlan and the environs). The hospital currently is almost completely depleted of all medicine and surgical supplies.

Whatever help we can give will be deeply appreciated. You can put your Thanksgiving donation envelope into the collection box at the Thanksgiving Day Mass, or place it in the Rectory Mail Box.

May our virtue of gratitude be realized by giving generous assistance to our needy sisters and brothers at home and abroad.