**CHRIST THE KING** (Nov 21, 2021) (Dn. 7:13-14; Rv. 1:5-8; Jn 18:33b-37). “For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the Truth” (Jn 18:33). **"Viva Cristo Rey!” (“Long live Christ the King!”).**

 In the Church’s calendar, the Feast of Christ the King is the parallel of the Super Bowl trophy or the Final Four in college basketball or the last game of the World Series. This feast was established and proclaimed by the Pope Pius XI in 1925 to reassert the sovereignty of Christ and the Church over all forms of government and to remind Christians of the fidelity and loyalty we owe to Christ, who by his Incarnation and sacrificial death on the cross has made us both adopted children of God and future citizens and heirs of the Kingdom of Heaven. The Feast was also a reminder to us all, and the totalitarian governments of our world, that, although emperors and kings with real ruling power exist today only in history books, we nevertheless honor Christ as the King of the Universe, and the King of our hearts, by **allowing Jesus to take control of our lives.** In thousands of human hearts all over the world, Jesus still reigns as King. The Cross is Jesus’ throne and the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus’ rule of law. His citizens need obey only one major law: “Love God with all your being, and love others as I have loved you.

**Lesson:** Hence, in today’s Gospel, we hear Jesus saying, **“For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the Truth” (Jn 18:33).** The Truth to which Jesus bears witness by His Life and teaches us is that God, His Father, is also our loving and forgiving Father, so we are all His children, forming one Body. For we are called to be a people who reach out to embrace the enemy and the stranger, a people called to glory in diversity, a people called to offer endless forgiveness, a people called to reach out in compassion to the poor, a people called to support one another in prayer, a people called to realize that we are called not to be served, but to serve. In other words, servant-leadership is the model that Christ the King has given us. **“For the Christian, ‘to reign is to serve Him,’ particularly when serving ‘the poor and the suffering, in whom the Church recognizes the image of her poor and suffering founder’” (CCC #786).**

**Life Message:** **We need to assess our commitment to Christ the King today.** As we celebrate the Kingship of Christ today, let us remember the truth that Jesus is **not our King**, if **we do not listen to, love, serve, and follow where Jesus leads.** We belong to Christ’s Kingdom only when we try to walk with Christ, when we try to live our lives fully in the spirit of the Gospel. If Christ is really King of my life, I must let Christ reign in all parts of my life. Thereby, we become Christ the King’s subjects when we sincerely respond to Jesus’ loving invitation: **"Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart" (Matt. 11:29).**

**Conclusion:** Ultimately, in every moral decision we face, there’s a choice between Christ the King and Barabbas, and the one who seeks to live in Christ's Kingdom is the one who says, **“Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.”** Consequently, by cultivating in our lives the gentle and humble mind of Christ, we show others that Jesus Christ is in indeed our King and that He is in charge of our lives. One Charles Colson said: **"All the kings and queens I have known in history sent their people out to die for them. I only know one King Who decided to die for his people- “That King is called JESUS! And that’s why we shout today: "Viva Cristo Rey!” (“Long live Christ the King!”).**