

From the PASTOR'S DESK



Jesus, Remember Me

During the month of November, our liturgies have focused on the end of the world. During colder, shorter days, the passing of times and seasons is a constant reminder to us that death and decay give way to life and freshness in abundance. Somehow or other, we stand between the two. Today is the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. We stand between Ordinary Time and Advent.

During this liturgical year, we have listened to the story of Jesus through the vision of St. Luke, who takes us from Christmas to the Crucifixion. Perhaps, this past year, something different has struck us as we moved along the familiar path. The joy of repentance? The dangers of temptation? The need to be rescued. A Savior?

Next week, in different words, St. Matthew will begin to tell the whole story again, but he will start with a description of the Second Coming of Jesus and end with the Beatitudes. We are given another chance to see the plot that God has designed for us.

In today's gospel, Jesus is crucified between two thieves. As Jesus journeyed to the place of crucifixion, some onlookers jeered, some were in tears, and some were indifferent. One of the thieves was bitterly resigned to his death. The other took a risk: Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. And there, between the two, Jesus shared God's salvation: Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.

The episode of the crucifixion is the center of the history of salvation. It is at the boundary of sin and death and the fullness of life. It is between the two. If we are to proclaim Jesus Christ to the nations, we must receive Him into our hearts. Between ignorance and wisdom, between decay and glory, He must be there, and He must be crowned. He must remain our king until all the world is made subject to Him. No one can have life apart from Him.

On this Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, we name Jesus Christ as our king; we desire to share His reign and hope to live forever. As individuals and as a race, we fall into the temptation to crown ourselves, our possessions, our ideologies. This feast gives us the opportunity to travel the familiar path again, holding tightly to our divine allegiance. And asking to be remembered.

Fr. Hernan Cely

Pastor

