Our Lord Jesus Christ the King of the Universe, Sunday, November 22, 2026

Ezekiel 34:11-12,15-17 - God himself will shepherd the people of Israel.

Psalm 23 - The Lord is my shepherd.

Corinthians 15:20-26, 28 - Because Christ has been raised from the dead, all those who have died will also be raised.

Matthew 25:31-46 - Jesus shows himself to be one of the hungry, the naked, the sick, and the imprisoned.

Today, the last Sunday in Ordinary Time, marks the end of the Catholic Church's liturgical year. Next Sunday begins Advent and a new liturgical year (2027). The Catholic Church ends its liturgical year with the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the King of the Universe. This feast was established by Pope Pius XI in 1925 as a statement of faith against the prevailing ideologies at that time which attempted to exclude faith, religion, and God from humanity. By celebrating this feast, we uphold the teachings of Scripture and the Church, and continue to proclaim Jesus Christ as our leader. The Feast of Christ the King is a reminder for Christians to continue to adore and enthrone Christ the Lord in our hearts, and to bring Christian values and principles back into society.

Scripture clearly states the kingship of Jesus: The King of kings and Lord of lords (1 Timothy 6:15); Jesus declares in Matthew 28:18, “All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”

In Philippians (2:9-11), St. Paul writes, “God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus Christ every knee should bow, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father”.

The kingship of Jesus is in the fact that Christianity, which he began over 2,000 years ago with twelve men, has spread to every corner of the earth and has influenced every aspect of world development and history. Out of the world's population of 8.3 billion, there are 2.4 billion Christians, making Christianity the world’s largest religion. The Catholic Church is the largest non-governmental provider of charitable, educational, and healthcare services in the world. The kingship of Jesus is not political.

The Deeper Meaning of today’s Celebration: Jesus conquered two greatest enemies of humanity – sin and death, therefore His reign is victorious (of the resurrection) and eternal. In a few moments we will hear the summary of Christ’ kingship at the prayers of consecration. The

preface says: "… an eternal and universal kingdom: a kingdom of truth and life, a kingdom of holiness and grace, a kingdom of justice, love, and peace."

Friends, Christ is present to us right here, right now, teaching us, leading us, healing and nourishing our minds and bodies. Christ is present in the Holy Communion, in the tabernacle, in the holy Word, in the community gathered in His name, and in the sacraments and ceremonies of the Church. Guess where else we can find Jesus? Christ is found in the poor person begging on the street, the sick person either in a healthcare facility or in a hospital, the stranger looking for acceptance, the neglected person longing for companionship, the prisoner, the elderly persons, the needy, and the suffering persons. Today, people are largely loyal to personal principles, personal ethics, immediate family, chosen friends, maybe sports teams, leaders, corporations, while some are loyal to Jesus Christ - the Son of God. To these, they show unswerving allegiance and devotion. What about you? What or who do you bow or bend your knee to?

May Christ the King reign not only in our churches but, above all, in our hearts, our relationships, and our daily actions. May we give Jesus Christ the first place in our lives and allow His values to determine and color our daily decisions and choices. Amen.

- Fr. Martin Ezeihuaku, MSP