**Christ the King Homily Year C November 19-20, 2022**

Blessed Miguel Pro of Mexico, a priest of the Society of Jesus, lived during a very trying time for the Mexican people.  The Catholic Church was terribly persecuted.  A popular uprising of Catholic laymen called the *Cristeros* rose to the occasion to free the Church from oppression.  Blessed Miguel Pro died as a martyr, executed by a firing squad of federal soldiers on November 23, 1927. As he stood, waiting for the shots that would end his earthly life and begin a new life in the kingdom of Heaven, he forgave his executioners, and spreading out his arms in the form of a cross he cried out *“¡Viva Cristo Rey!”*  “Long live Christ the King.

Today we are celebrating the feast of Christ the King. Christ is our savior, our ruler and everything for our lives. When we accept Jesus as the king of our lives, then everyone else takes on proper proportion. We are also challenged to find Christ the King in every one around us.

In the first reading we heard about how King David made an agreement with them there before the Lord, and they anointed him king of Israel. God’s rule is an everlasting rule which will never pass away, and his kingship will never come to an end.

In the bible there are so many references refer to Christ as a king. In the Annunciation, recorded in Lk.1: 32-33, we read: *“The Lord God will make him a king, as his ancestor David was, and he will be the king of the descendants of Jacob forever and his kingdom will never end.”*

The Magi from the Far East came to Jerusalem and asked the question: (Mt. 2:2) “*Where is the baby born to be the king of the Jews?  We saw his star… and we have come to worship him*.”  During the royal reception given to Jesus on Palm Sunday, the Jews shouted: (Lk.19: 38) *“God bless the king, who comes in the name of the Lord.”*  When Pilate asked the question: (Jn.18: 33) “Are you the king of the Jews”? Jesus responded *“You say I am a King. For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to My voice” (Jn 18: 37)*

 On the cross of Jesus, it was written as follows: *“Jesus the Nazarene, King of the Jews.”* On the cross Jesus promised paradise to the repentant thief.  Who made the request: *“Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”* Jesus replied to him, Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.

   Jesus Christ still lives as king, in thousands of human hearts all over the world.  The cross is his throne and the Sermon on the Mount is his rule of law.  His citizens need to obey only one law: “*Love one another as I have loved you"* (Jn 13: 34). His love is selfless, sacrificial, kind, compassionate, forgiving and unconditional.  That is why the preface in today’s Mass describes Jesus’ kingdom as a kingdom of truth and life, a kingdom of holiness and grace, a kingdom of justice, love and peace.

We need to surrender our lives to Christ’s rule: Since Christ our king lives as His Holy Spirit in our hearts, as his grace in our souls, we have to learn to live in his holy presence, doing his will by sharing his forgiving love with others around us. We have to be constantly aware of his presence in the Bible, in the sacraments and in the worshipping community.

 Let us remember the valuable advice pasted on the wall of Christian homes: “Christ is the head of our house, the unseen guest at every meal and the silent listener to every conversation.”

On this great feast day, let us resolve to give Christ the central place in our lives, and to obey his commandment of love by sharing our blessings with all his needy children.  Let us conclude the Church year by asking the Lord to help us to serve the King of Kings as he presents himself in those reaching out to us  *"To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever.”*  Amen. *Christus vincit! Christus regnat! Christus imperat!* Christ conquers! Christ rules! Christ reigns!