

Feast of Christ the King

Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17, Psalm 23, 1st Corinthians 15:20-26, 28, Matthew 25:31-46

Pope Pius XI instituted The Feast of Christ the King in 1925 for the universal church in his encyclical *Quas Primas*. He connected the increasingly denial of Christ as king to the rise of secularism. At the time of *Quas Primas*, many Christians (including Catholics) began to doubt Christ's authority and existence, as well as the Church's power to continue Christ's authority. Pius XI, and the rest of the Christian world, witnessed the rise of non-Christian dictatorships in Europe, and saw Catholics being taken in by these earthly leaders. These dictators often attempted to assert authority over the Church. Just as the Feast of Corpus Christi was instituted when devotion to the Eucharist was at a low point, the Feast of Christ the King was instituted during a time when respect for Christ and the Church was waning, when the feast was needed most.

Pius hoped the institution of the feast would have various effects. They were:

1. That nations would see that the Church has the right to freedom, and immunity from the state (*Quas Primas*, 32).
2. That leaders and nations would see that they are bound to give respect to Christ (*Quas Primas*, 31).
3. That the faithful would gain strength and courage from the celebration of the feast, as we are reminded that Christ must reign in our hearts, minds, wills, and bodies (*Quas Primas*, 33).

What are we seeing today? Has much has changed?

Does Jesus reign in our hearts, minds, wills and bodies?

At our baptism, we were claimed for God and became members of God's family. Our parents helped to teach us about Jesus and His Church along with catechists. As we read the Sunday and daily readings and listen to Catholic teachers, we continue to gain more understanding of who Jesus is and the importance of yielding our will and conforming more to God's will.

Jesus came to show us how to yield our will to God's will. Jesus in his human nature reminds us during his prayer in the Garden before his arrest "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me, yet, not as I will, but as you will." (Matthew 26:39)

We know that Jesus did follow the will of the Father by allowing himself to be scourged and crucified and showed the whole world that he was king over the universe through his resurrection, showing his victory over sin and death.

Are we willing to yield to the will of God that Father that we be one with him in heart, mind, will and body?

Today's gospel reading shows us the result of yielding to the will of the Father. Feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, welcoming the stranger, clothing the naked, caring for the sick and visiting those in prison.

We recognize them as the Corporal Works of Mercy. (Catechism of the Catholic Church paragraph 2447)

Feed the hungry, Clothing the naked, Give drink to the thirsty, Shelter the homeless, Visit the sick and imprisoned, Bury the dead

When we stand before Jesus at the end of our life, what will we say about these.

Recently, I heard a song by Brandon Heath called "Give Me your Eyes" that really spoke to my heart. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P5AkNqLuVgY>)

The chorus is:

Give me Your eyes for just one second
Give me Your eyes so I can see
Everything that I keep missing
Give me Your love for humanity
Give me Your arms for the broken-hearted
Ones that are far beyond my reach.
Give me Your heart for the ones forgotten
Give me Your eyes so I can see

Are we seeing each other through the eyes of Jesus and helping where we can?

In a September publication by Iowa State Extension, called Poverty and Food Needs for Story County Iowa, we find a couple of statistics that we might not expect.

http://www.icip.iastate.edu/sites/default/files/poverty/poverty_19169.pdf

Population of Story County for 2013 was 92,406

Total population in poverty – 16,366 Approximately 17.7%

Estimated number of Food Insecurity Individuals – 15.2% or 13,360

(those that have difficulty at some time during the year providing enough food for all their family members.)

A loss of a job. Illness or accident for one of the income sources for the home can change everything overnight. And then the challenge of getting back on track begins.

You might wonder if this is possible today in Story County, Ames, to have this many people in poverty. I can assure you it is very real. Just ask those at Emergency Residence, Good Neighbor, Mid-Iowa Community Action (MICA), St. Thomas Aquinas -Good Neighbor outreach.

I want to extend a huge **Thank You!** for many who have been very generous with helping those in need!!

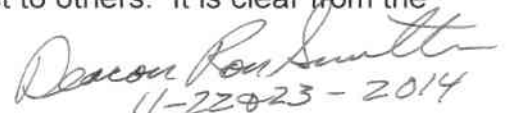
We also see there is need for your continued help!

As we deepen our love for Jesus in our hearts and our will becomes more like Jesus, we will see those who need our help and support.

This may be our spouse, our family, our friends, a stranger.

As we pray with the scriptures and with each other, God will open our hearts and show us how we are to be his hands and feet.

When we come to mass, are we hoping that Jesus will come to us or as we hear the Holy Scriptures and receive His Body and Blood are we desiring to be more like Jesus. Allowing ourselves to be transformed. Asking Jesus to be the King and Master of our lives, so when we stand before Him we can testify to the many ways we were Christ to others. It is clear from the gospel, we will not like the alternative.


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