HOMILY for CHRIST THE KING – Year A

This Sunday's Feast is about the leadership of Jesus Christ. Reflecting on the topic of leadership, I am reminded of this cute story that I'd like to share with you.

The President once had his annual checkup with his doctor & wanted to know its result. He asked, "Surgeon General, what are the result of my brain scan?"

"Mr. President, your brain has a left side & a right side," answered the Surgeon General.

"Well, everyone has two sides to their brain, don't they?" the President continued his inquiry.

"Yes, but in your brain, on the left side there isn't anything right, & on your right side there isn't anything left," replied the Surgeon General.

That might be the problem with our current President! Anyway, this Sunday, the 34th Sunday/last Sunday in Ordinary Time, we are called to celebrate the Feast of Christ the King. The reason why we should remember Christ at the end of another Liturgical Year is because He is the beginning & the end of the world, the Alpha & the Omega, as we inscribe those 2 letters on the Easter Candle every Easter Vigil. We Christians believe that Christ was at the beginning of Creation & will come again at the end of time to judge the world. Christ will be the Judge of the living & the dead on the Last Day as we have heard in this Sunday's Gospel (Matthew 25: 31-46). In case we have any doubt about divine judgement after this life, that Scripture passage wants to remind us to follow the lifestyle of the sheep & avoid the one of the goat if we want to pass the Final Exam & make it through the Gate of Heaven. Let us now take a closer look at the Final Exam & see if we have the answers for its questions.

Here are some of the questions on the Final Exam, "…For I was hungry; & have you given me any food? I was thirsty; & have you given me anything to drink? I was away from home; & have you welcomed me? For I was naked; & have you clothed me? For I was ill or in prison; & have visited or attended to those needs of mine?" About four Sundays ago, we had a similar message in the first Reading as the Book of Exodus 22:20-26 said, "You shall not molest or oppress an alien, for you were once aliens yourselves in the land of Egypt. You shall not wrong any widow or orphan. If you ever wrong them & they cry out to me, I will surely hear their cry. My wrath will flare up, & I will kill you with the sword; then your own wives will be widows, & your children orphans. If you lend money to one of your poor neighbors among my people, you shall not act like an extortioner toward him."

I wanted to remind us in the Homily four Sundays ago that we have not treated aliens & immigrants compassionately as a nation; & we have seen how ICE agents have mistreated immigrants & even killed 2 Americans. We have neglected widows & orphans as many of them have been abandoned in their own homes or nursing homes while some orphans have had a tough time getting proper care & adoption. We have cut social programs to assist the poor & the hungry such as SNAP, Medicare, funding to Feeding America Program, USAID, & so on. Those are real facts as I did not make them up like our politicians often do. Check them out yourselves! Sadly, one lady who was ignorant about those real facts stopped me after church & screamed at me, "Who is the worst accuser?" Christians/Catholics like her bring a bad name to the rest of us as they have acted like hypocrites while assuming that they are better than others & mistreating people around them. I will let the Lord judge them on the Last Day while I myself continue to live up to the expectations of Matthew 25:31-46 & Exodus 22:20-26. So, let me ask

you, “How have you treated the hungry, the homeless, the sick, the prisoner, & the stranger?” If we have had the right answer for that question & taken care of the needy around us, the king/the Lord will tell us, “I assure you, as often as you did it for one of my least brothers/sisters, you did it for me.” If we have had the wrong answer for that question & neglected to take care of the needy around us, the King/the Lord will remind us, “I assure you, as often as you have neglected to do it to one of these least ones, you have neglected to do it to me.” Here is the terrible consequence for it, “These will go off to the eternal punishment while the righteous who took care of the needy to the eternal life.”

Besides being the Judge of the living & the dead on the Last Day, Jesus is also the Good Shepherd in this life. Here is how this Sunday’s First Reading tells us about Him, “…I myself will look after & tend my sheep. As a shepherd tend his flock when he finds himself among his scattered sheep, so will I tend my sheep. I will rescue them from every place where they were scattered when it was cloudy & dark. I myself will pasture my sheep; I myself will give them rest… The lost I will seek out, the strayed I will bring back, the injured I will bind up, the sick I will heal… Shepherding them rightly.” As you can see, that is what Jesus the Good Shepherd would do for us His sheep. In case we have any doubt about His devoted work for us, take a closer look on that Cross & in the Holy Eucharist. Up there on the Cross we see the Good Shepherd offered His life for His sheep. Down here on the Altar we have Jesus give His body & blood to nourish us on our journey of faith. That is what true leadership is all about. Unfortunately, we have let corrupted bad leadership dupe us like the rest of the world has. We have listened to the empty promises & deceiving messages of corrupted bad leaders & ignored the faithful, compassionate voice of Jesus. We have been hypnotized by the fake religious values of the corrupted bad leaders & have let them tell us what a true Catholic/Christian way of life is. We have let the corrupted bad leaders replace the Gospel values of Jesus the Good Shepherd with their hateful & dehumanizing policies. Do we want to continue to follow the corrupted bad leaders & their charades? Or, should we return to Jesus & follow the Good Shepherd & His virtuous way of life?

My dear brothers & sisters, the Feast of Christ the King celebrated at the end of a Liturgical Year is an important reminder for us who Jesus is. He is the Judge of the living & the dead & the true Shepherd. It is up to us to pick Jesus as our Leader & follow His virtuous way of life. Or, we cold pick a corrupted bad person to be our leader & dance to his tunes. The choice is ours! And don’t forget about its terrible consequences in the end also!