

“Growing in Communion with Jesus our King”

1. **Jesus has a very different Kingship than we think of here on earth.** We don't have a great conception of Kings here in America since we rebelled and broke free of the King of England back in the Revolutionary War in the 1700's. But when we think of a King we think of some man who is in charge; he's the Boss! **Often we think negatively of Kings down the ages of human history as being corrupt and tyrannical in many ways – which is true.** There have been some holy Kings in Church history such as King St. Louis IX in France in the 1200's and St. Stephen of Hungary in the year 1000. And a few more, but for the most part most Kings, or Queens for that matter with rare exceptions - like St. Elizabeth of Portugal and St. Helena the mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine - did not end up as Saints. **Power and lots of money tend to corrupt one's soul as we should know from our Catholic Faith perspective** (*See the story of St. Elizabeth of Hungary and taking off the jeweled crown of a princess in light of seeing Jesus's crown of thorns at a Church when she was only 6 or 7 and other family members holding her in disdain for rejecting vanity at such a young age, so spiritually beautiful – see Butler's Lives of the Saints, 4 volume work - only \$1.99 by the way on the Kindle for the Catholic Way Publishing version*). Jesus is different like the rare Saintly Kings and Queens in history are. Jesus wants to be the King of our life spiritually speaking. He is the King of Heaven and that will be manifest someday in His 2nd Coming as the King of the Universe – as we hear prophesied in the 1st Reading from Daniel and in the 2nd Reading from Revelation today. **But are we willing to invite Him to be ever more profoundly the King of our life?** Remember His throne is the Cross! We must embrace our daily Cross with Him; so we won't be part of the people who lament Him, because they refused to pattern their earthly lives on Jesus's teaching, the Truth that will alone set us free!

2. **How do we do this practically speaking?** *This is where daily prayer, esp. the regular and 7 Sorrows Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet help, embracing more generous acts of sacrifice/penance offered in love for the good of our soul and the conversion of others, trying to bear our daily sufferings and daily vocational duties with more love and generosity, asking our Blessed Mother Mary, Guardian Angel, and favorite Saints to help us respond better to Jesus and the Catholic Faith He has blessed us with, regularly confessing our sins in the beautiful Sacrament of Reconciliation, coming the daily Mass and weekly Holy hour as much as possible, trying to watch good Catholic shows on EWTN and read good books about the Saints and our Catholic faith, possibly seeking a spiritual director to help us make better progress spiritually(I can help you with that, if you are interested), all these things help us immensely. We need good things to nourish our souls to navigate the difficult time in human history that we are living in. All of us to a greater or lesser degree are worn out from the Covid pandemic and all the different reactions to that. Do we realize how God is trying to bring good out of this objectively bad situation by getting us to focus more on Him and the things of eternity? **To focus on what is most important in light of eternity: the salvation of souls, which is the highest form of charity as St. Padre Pio pointed out.** *Are we striving daily to offer more prayers for all the people who may be in Purgatory, our loved ones, but also the forgotten souls there?* We're dealing with a world that is increasingly secular or non-religious in so many ways, and the battle is raging to draw people away from the Christian view of family life and marriage. We see this in the schools from grade school on up, to many TV sitcoms and popular songs, which leads to a world of confusion, esp. among the young, where people do not know if they are male or female, same sex attraction is treated as a norm - maybe even better in some ways than heterosexuality - just a different way of expressing love; **instead of embracing God's vision of life and love – where man and woman are made in God's image and most for the gift of the Sacrament of Marriage and being open to the gift of children.** And for those who struggle with same sex attraction to help them live a chaste life and embrace that Cross with love as a real path to holiness, and realize it is possible –*

but only with the help of God's grace – to do so. And we as believers in God's truth must love the sinner, but never affirm the sin! The modern secular world wants us to love the sin and the sinner and to leave everyone alone! Remember that is not God's way – He is always seeking out the prodigal son/daughter to bring them home to holiness. It may be us, it may be people we know who are not living in accord with God's teaching in the area of holy purity/chastity or other areas of God's holy teaching; we must pray and offer penance and show real love by saying God wants better for you because He loves you so much, and wants you and me to get to Heaven!

3. **When we invite Jesus into our life more, it leads to an ever deeper peace and joy.** Our King even takes our self-induced crosses like various addictions and patterns of sin, fears and areas of pride, and wants to turn them into something spiritually beautiful. *Recovering alcoholics, drug addicts, compulsive gamblers, gluttons and shopaholics, people immersed in sexual sin and the occult, people who have participated in the grave sin of abortion, people who are numb from life – no matter what emotional/psychological/spiritual state we are in at present, the Lord Jesus is willing always to give us a new chance to grow in holiness.* And Mary our Spiritual Mother is always there to help us in her patient, gentle, and embracing love. How liberating, how beautiful, how much we need to get this message out to our contemporaries! **What a beautiful reality: Christ is King and so in the end goodness will win over evil, but which side will we be on?** Remember that haunting line, which is only in the Gospel of Luke (18:8): ***When the Son of Man returns, will there be any Faith on earth?*** Hopefully we can say: *Yes, Lord, if I am still living when you return in Glory, or when you see me when I die, there will be Faith in my Heart and Soul and Mind and hopefully in the people that I love and offer prayer and acts of sacrifice for, and real evidence in how I live here on earth, getting ready for Heaven!* God bless you.