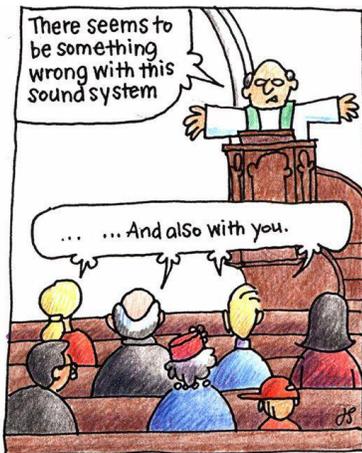


Sermon on the Feast of Chris the King.

At the sixty wedding anniversary, the wife turned to her husband and said “After sixty years, you are tried and true.” Of course at that age he was hard of hearing. He asked his wife, “What did you say?” And she repeated again, “After sixty years you are tried and true.” Of course he said. “After sixty years I am tied of you too.”

Communication is the key to any relationship. Communication is the key to any organization and I believe in my heart that there are things that you should know.

"If you're going to tell people the truth, you'd better make them laugh. Otherwise, they'll kill you." (George Bernard Shaw). Let me share with you what I know. I would like to start with our sound system – means of our communication.



How's your church sound system going? We had our sound system checked by a professional media company, a company that has successfully installed sound systems in many parishes in the diocese, and made some changes that have been working well. The goal of this project is to improve speech intelligibility and the quality of choral and contemporary music, with the possibility of a Teen Band for Youth Mass in the near future. We are also looking into the possibility of upgrading our projection system.



The Facility committee is considering the old convent site (Ministry Center) for an upgrade – How many of you have walked into the Ministry center? Great! How many of have been to the second floor of the Ministry center? (Few hands). I don't blame you. It is used mostly to store stuff. The Ministry Center would require significant upgrades such as structural improvements, Fire sprinklers, removal of hazardous materials, handicapped restrooms and possibly a elevator and parking.

As these kind of improvements can actually exceed the cost of a new structure, we will also consider replacing the building. I thank the Facilities committee for their dedication to our Church.



ministry.

One of the things that I am looking forward to in the coming spring is a Youth or Teen Mass, with a Teen Band.. If you have a heart for the young and don't have an agenda other than teaching the young to love God, please feel free to talk to me or to our Youth Minister. Rick Lejano will be informing you in the coming months about their

In the summer of this year, I made a trip to Brazil.. I was joined by two other priests. On a Sunday morning, we decided to go to Church and searched out a Church where we could attend a Mass in English. After mass, we felt the need to experience the real feel of a local church, and so walked on



the streets looking for a Church. We thought we found one. The name sounded Catholic.. the Church looked Catholic... And we entered the Church. The Church was singing a hymn. Everyone was singing loud.. It was awesome. My brother priest turned to me and said, “Paulson, this is not a catholic church.” And so we left.. We kept walking along the street until we arrived at another Church named St. Elizabeth. We walked into the Church. There was cantor in the front singing alone.. Nobody sang in the congregation. Some were reading Church bulletins.. And I turned to my brother priest and said, “Hey, this is a catholic Church.” And it was.. and we stayed. CTK, You sing. This is what is

unique about our church. After having listened to you on multiple levels and read the survey report given to me in which 600 of you participated, and having had conversations with music directors together and individually, I have decided to appoint a Music Director for CTK. Two imp. Things – we sing as church. Second, we have great volunteers who sing.. The Director will help facilitate the choirs and train cantors, will lead a choir at 5.00 pm with Terrie for now, and work with the Teen Band.

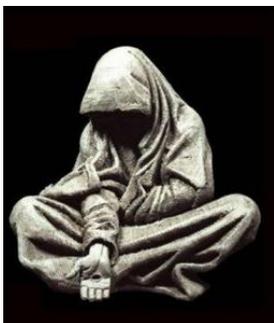
Today is the feast of Christ the King. This feast is a very new one on the church calendar. It was added by Pope Pius XI in 1925. He created this feast as a reaction against the prevailing attitudes of his day –to refute the growing threats of communism and secularism. Two “isms” that sought to make man, not God, the most powerful force in the world. A century later, those threats have been replaced by others that tend to marginalize God—”isms” like materialism or relativism. But here and now, this feast still stands in defiance of our culture.

It asks us: “Who – or WHAT — really rules our lives?”

The Gospel passage says, “When the King appears in all his glory.. When you did this to the least of my brothers and sisters you did it for me.



Recently the Pope blessed the statue of the Homeless Jesus, depicting a barefoot, blanket shrouded Christ asleep on a park bench. It was created by a Canadian artist. In fact, the life-size bronze sculpture was rejected by two high-profile cathedrals, St. Michael’s Cathedral in Toronto and St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York, despite initial enthusiasm by rectors.



Our next slide – this statue created by the same artist.. “Whatever you do.” Of course the statue of homeless Christ like the homeless of sfo or Oakland or for that matter anywhere is haunting and uncomfortable. There are people who tell me they don’t like the city because of the sight of so many poor. God has a preferential love for the poor.. The poor, the homeless, the marginalized is a reminder of God in our midst. Pope Francis recently started two new ventures in the Vatican. Renovating the restrooms in the Vatican installing showers in them so that the homeless can shower regularly. Second, Francis is raffling off gifts given to him to benefit the poor.

Fr. Brian Joyce told me the other day, that Christ the King parish is built not on piety, but it is built on social justice. This is awesome... If our piety and adoration and prayer does not lead us to love and embrace the poor.. then we are dealing with a different God. Our God is a God of love and compassion, A God of the poor and oppressed.



Our sense of justice flows from our deep relationship with Christ the King, who lives in the poor. (Story of Mother Teresa).

A journalist once said to Mother Teresa “I would not do what you are doing,” when he beheld Mother Teresa cleaning the purulent sores of a dying man, “for a million dollars.” “I would not do it for a million dollars either,” Mother Teresa replied. Not for a million dollars, but for zealous love.

What did she see in those people, half rotten while they breathed still? She saw Christ; she saw royalty. Her love and zeal gave them the honor they deserved. “Whatever you do to the least of my brothers and sisters, you do it for me.” May God bless you. May God bless Christ the King community. May our King teach to love the poor, to see you in the poor and lowly.