

HOMILY FOR CHRIST THE KING

1. Who is in charge of my life – who has the right to make decisions for my life
 - a. Government, Church, me
 - b. Feast of Christ the King, we are saying it is Christ
 - c. If we accept Book of Revelation's statement, He is alpha and omega
 - i. Beginning and end of everything, then our total loyalty is owed to Him
 - ii. Difficulty for us though is He is a different kind of King, will not force us to act against His will
 - iii. Rather than overwhelm us with fear, He subtly calls us with love
2. Instead of having laws enforced like a government, God's laws appeal to our conscience
 - a. Angels are not police telling us we have to follow the commandments
 - b. Rather the commandments serve as teachers, guides to how we can attain happiness
 - c. God trusts us more than we would trust ourselves, He wants us to discover Him in our relationships, to be a Body of people united in the Holy Spirit
3. Jesus warns us to be careful of a conspiracy: Satan, the world, our own wounded flesh
 - a. They tell us by following God's way of becoming a community we lose too much
 - b. We lose that ultimate right to make our own decisions
 - c. God uses laws to teach our conscience how to become His People
 - d. But conscience sometimes warns us that things that feel good are not good for us
4. There is a rival for our conscience, I call it rationalization
 - a. If there is something I want to do or experience, even though I know it is wrong I can make excuses
 - b. I can argue myself into deciding it is not that wrong
 - c. If it feels good, there must be something right about it so I can justify myself acting against my deeper values
5. Thinking about how this works, example of pedophilia
 - a. Pretty universal value that sexually abusing a child is about as wrong as one can get
 - b. Pedophiles usually are seen as attractive personalities
 - c. They attract kids because they are attracted to kids
 - d. At this point everything would be fine, also reason why pedophiles are hard to discern
 - e. Decisions that are made, instead of focusing and maintaining healthy relationships
 - i. Person begins to dwell on sex and desensitize themselves by pornography
 - ii. Probably start with adult pornography
 - iii. Because it is a desensitization process, person keeps looking for the thrill
 - iv. Always will become more graphic, and for one attracted to children, turn to child pornography
 - f. The moral part that comes in, is that each decision will have to be justified
 - i. Person argues to self, it feels so good to get aroused, can't be that wrong
 - ii. I'm an adult, I can make my own decisions
 - iii. What right does the Church have to tell me that something that feels so good is wrong
 - g. Once a person rationalizes abuse in the virtual world, it is not that big a step to abuse a child in the real world
 - i. Rationalizations simply go another step, such that the child will enjoy it
 - ii. Or it is good for child, sometimes go so far as to say the child seduced them
6. The primary source behind this evil goes back to who is in charge of my life, who rules my decisions
 - a. If I am completely in charge, then who has the right to tell me if something is right or wrong
 - i. I will be governed simply by what feels right for me
 - ii. There are no universal values, only thing that counts is what I believe at the moment
 - b. If God rules my decisions then I try to discern His will and live accordingly
 - i. I will pay attention to His Word, the teachings of Church, basic values of life
 - ii. I will recognize the temptations to rationalize and make excuses
 - iii. Recognize that God has created communities like the Church to serve as objective measures
 - iv. We look to the teachings and values of important communities to make sure we stay on the right track
7. Ultimately we recognize that only true happiness will come in being part of God and His people
 - a. There are a lot of things that may feel good at the moment but in the long run destroy relationships and move us away from God