

Dear St. Francis of Assisi Family,

As we stand at the threshold of a new liturgical year, the Church invites us to contemplate Christ's kingship through one of the most dramatic scenes in the Gospel – Jesus standing before Pilate. In this powerful exchange between earthly authority and divine sovereignty, we discover three profound truths that speak to our hearts today.

First, we witness the striking contrast between worldly power and Christ's kingdom. When Pilate asks, ***"Are you the King of the Jews?"*** Jesus responds with a truth that transcends political boundaries: ***"My kingdom does not belong to this world."*** In our own times of political uncertainty and social upheaval, this reminder brings profound peace. Christ's kingship operates on a different plane – one that transforms hearts rather than imposing force, one that serves rather than demands service.

Secondly, Jesus reveals that His kingdom is founded on truth: ***"For this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."*** In a world full of confusion and conflicting voices, Jesus stands as our unchanging truth. His words and actions show us how to live, love, and serve. When we feel lost or uncertain, His truth guides our path.

Finally, this Gospel passage illuminates the personal nature of Christ's kingship. Notice how Jesus engages Pilate in dialogue, inviting him to move beyond his preconceptions. Similarly, Jesus invites each of us into a personal relationship with Him as our King. This is not a distant monarch issuing decrees, but a shepherd-king who knows His sheep by name and lays down His life for them.

As we end this church year and prepare for Advent, let's remember we belong to a King whose greatest power is love. His crown was made of thorns, His throne was a cross, and His greatest victory was won through giving Himself for us.

"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

- Fr. Vincent