

FROM FR. JASON



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. Let us not forget that He is the King and deserves right reverence. I commend all those parishioners who reverently participate during the Holy Mass. I commend all who, when entering the Church, genuflect, recognizing that in the tabernacle there is the King. I commend all those who come early, dressed properly, because they know they will be attending an audience with the King. I commend all those who, not yet married sacramentally, but civilly or living in different unions, refrain from receiving Holy Communion so as not to offend the King. I commend all those who receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation frequently, in order to receive the King in the Holy Eucharist worthily. He is our King. May we let Him rule our lives, not rule

over Him.

This Thursday we will celebrate Thanksgiving Day. I thank God for all of you. I thank our staff, our councils, and all those who work tirelessly for our parish. In a special way, I thank all our volunteers. Many of them serve behind the scenes. May our Thanksgiving be a day to express our gratitude to each other and for each other. It's not too late to post your 'Gratitude Card' in the lobby! What follows is an excerpt from 'A sermon of the second century' from the Office of Readings for Thanksgiving Day. We will sure have a lot to be grateful for when God helps us all to choose, 'to be members of the Church of life:'

"My name is constantly blasphemed by unbelievers, says the Lord. Woe to the man who causes my name to be blasphemed. Why is the Lord's name blasphemed? Because we say one thing and do another. When they hear the words of God on our lips, unbelievers are amazed at their beauty and power, but when they see that those words have no effect in our lives, their admiration turns to scorn, and they dismiss such words as myths and fairy tales.

They listen, for example, when we tell them that God has said: *It is no credit to you if you love those who love you, but only if you love your enemies, and those who hate you.* They are full of admiration at such extraordinary virtue, but when they observe that we not only fail to love people who hate us, but even those who love us, they laugh us to scorn, and the Name is blasphemed.

Therefore, brothers, if we do the will of God the Father, we shall be members of the first spiritual Church that was created before the sun and the moon; but if we fail to do the will of the Lord, we shall be among those to whom it is said in Scripture: *My house has been made into a robbers' den.* We must choose then, if we want to be saved, to be members of the Church of life.

You surely cannot be ignorant of the fact that *the living Church is the body of Christ*; for Scripture says: *God made man male and female.* Now the male signifies Christ, and the female signifies the Church, which, according to both the Old and New Testament, is no recent creation, but has existed from the beginning. At first the Church was purely spiritual, even as our Jesus was spiritual, but it appeared in the last days to save us.

For the spiritual Church was made manifest in the body of Christ, in order to show us that if we uphold its honor in the outward, visible form, and do not defile it, we shall, through the Holy Spirit, be made its members in the true, spiritual sense. For the body of the Church is a copy of the Spirit, and no one who defaces the copy can have any part in what the copy represents. In other words, brothers, you must preserve the honor of the body in order to share in the Spirit. For if we say that the body is the Church and the Spirit is Christ, it follows that anyone who dishonors his body, dishonors the Church. Such a man will have no part in the Spirit, which is Christ. But if the Holy Spirit is joined to it, this body can receive an immortal life that is wonderful beyond words, for the blessings that *God has made ready for his chosen ones* surpass all human powers of description."

Peace,

Handwritten signature of Fr. Jason