

## 11/20/16 ..... Christ the King C

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

-- Since we are celebrating the Feast of Christ the King, I decided to look at the calendar of saints in the Roman Missal to see how many feasts of king/saints we celebrate. I expected to find a good number of them.

-- However, I only found two kings (Louis of France, Wenceslaus of Bohemia) and one son of a king (Casmir). He died before he could come to the throne. I would guess there are several others who are canonized but are not on our yearly calendar.

-- Being a king may get you noticed, but it does not guarantee great holiness. But both kings on our calendar were very kind and just rulers. They were particularly sensitive to the needs of the poor. One became a martyr because some of his family members resented his goodness.

-- Both of these saint/kings followed the example of Christ. They may have been born into better circumstances than he was, but they didn't make that a reason to "lord over" the people they served.

-- The true king they followed ruled, not from a royal seat, but from the rough throne of the cross. He was not surrounded by princes but by two common thieves. Even on that cross, though, he tried to minister to them rather than to think of his own pain.

-- When the one thief reached out to him, that man was in his prayers, and he would soon share in Jesus' glory in heaven. Today, as we conclude this year of mercy, we are asked to pray for the living and the dead. This is the final spiritual work of mercy.

-- This also reminds us of the fact that we are a part of a communion of saints. That theme has been prominent the entire month of November, which we began with the feasts of All Saints and All Souls.

-- In our Church here at St. Caspar's, we highlight this need to pray for the living and the dead in two ways. One you can see behind me: the

posters on which there are, at my last count, 335 names of deceased loved ones of parishioners.

-- The other is to my side just back of me and is present year round. That is our book of prayer intentions. People write down their intentions here and we pray for them in the final intention of the Prayer of the Faithful.

-- These two visible signs remind us how God cares for all of his people, living and dead, and that we should do the same. For we are all a part of that communion of saints, of God's holy ones.

-- I remember, a number of years ago, speaking to a sister who I would have considered a very spiritual person. She told me her favorite form of prayer was simply to sit in a chair quietly and think of all the people in her life, commending each of them to the Lord.

-- When you think about it, that's not a bad way to pray. I could well imagine Jesus doing the same thing during some of those times when he slipped away from his disciples early in the morning to be with his heavenly Father in prayer.

-- And we know that he did that even in his last minutes on the cross. He commended the good thief to his Father in prayer. He probably also prayed for the other thief who was not so nice to him and was demanding that he save him from his fate.

-- May we take a hint from Jesus, praying each day for all those who touch our lives, for good or for ill. For we are all a part of the family of God—the communion of saints. We are in this together, and we deserve each other's prayers.