



ADORATION – CHRIST THE KING FEAST-II *(Synodal Way of Reflecting)*

Hymn: Jesus my Lord... or any other.(Joyful Celebration)

Introduction:

Pope Francis reminds us that the Solemnity of Jesus Christ, King of the Universe is placed at the end of the Liturgical year to recall that the life of creation doesn't advance by chance but proceeds to a final end: the definitive manifestation of Christ, Lord of history and of the whole of creation. The power that Christ the King exercises is the power of love. Kingdoms founded on the power of arms sooner or later collapse; but the Kingdom of God is founded on love and it reigns over hearts. It confers on those who receive it, peace, justice, freedom, and fullness of life.

The Gospels frequently show us Jesus “on a journey”; he walks alongside people and listens to the questions and concerns lurking in their hearts. He shows us that God is not found in neat and orderly places, distant from reality, but walks ever at our side. He meets us where we are, on the often-rocky roads of life. Today, ask ourselves – all of us, Pope, Bishops, Priests, Religious and Laity – whether we, the Christian community, embody this “style” of God, who travels the paths of history and shares in the life of humanity. Are we prepared for the adventure of this journey? Or are we fearful of the unknown, preferring to take refuge in the usual excuses: “It's useless” or “We've always done it this way”?

Pause.... for silent moments of Personal Prayer.

Prayer: Lord, Jesus Christ, Our Sovereign King, the beginning and end of all things, you have made your Church to be a people that bear witness to the goodness and beauty of your kingdom. By your Holy Spirit, you have united us as one body, called to live as one family of God. Fill our hearts with your grace that we would be close to you by being close to the vulnerable and marginalized. Give us the patience to share one another's burdens, and give us the courage to always be friends of the truth. May we remain with you always. Amen.

Hymn: *Short Hymn to the Holy Spirit before listening to the Scripture Reading.*

Scripture Reading: **Mark 10:17-27**

(Brief Pause)

Reflection:

A Synodal path means walking on the same road; walking together. Let us look at Jesus. First, he encounters the rich man on the road; he then listens to his questions, and finally he helps him discern what he must do to inherit eternal life. Encounter, listen and discern. Pope Francis reflects on these three verbs that characterized the Synod.



Encounter: The Gospel passage begins by speaking of an encounter. A man comes up to Jesus and kneels down before him, asking him a crucial question: “*Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?*” So important a question requires attention, time, willingness to encounter others and sensitivity to what troubles them. The Lord is not stand aloof; he does not appear annoyed or disturbed. Instead, he is completely present to this person. He is open to an encounter. Nothing leaves Jesus indifferent; everything is of concern to him. Encountering faces, meeting eyes, sharing each individual's history. That is the closeness that Jesus embodies. He knows that someone's life can be changed by a single encounter.

Prayer: God of closeness, compassion and tenderness, Jesus the serving King who meets us, right where we are; may the Synodal journey helps us break all forms of barriers and become a Church of communion by her very presence, bandaging wounds and healing broken hearts with the balm of love and understanding. Grant us openness, courage and a willingness to let ourselves be challenged by the presence and the stories of others we encounter.

Listen: True encounter arises only from listening. Jesus listened to that man's question and to the religious and existential concerns that lay behind it. He did not give a non-committal reply or offer a pre-packaged solution; he did not pretend to respond politely, simply as a way of dismissing him and continuing on his way. Jesus simply listens, for whatever amount of time it takes; he is not rushed. Most importantly, he is not afraid to listen to him with his heart and not just with his ears. Indeed, he does more than simply answer the rich man's question; he lets him tell his story, to speak freely about himself. Christ reminds him of the commandments, and the man starts to talk about his youth, to share his religious journey and his efforts to seek God. This happens whenever we listen with the heart: people feel that they are being heard, not judged; they feel free to recount their own experiences and their spiritual journey.

Prayer: Jesus our Lord and King, nothing leaves you indifferent and unconcerned. Listening with the heart is always costing; for it hears through silences and gestures beyond the spoken words and moves us to action. Teach us to listen with our hearts to the indwelling voice of your Holy Spirit, and to one another so as to discern our times, in solidarity with the struggles and aspirations of all humanity.

Discern: Encounter and listening are not the ends in themselves, leaving everything just as it was before. On the contrary, whenever we enter into dialogue, we allow ourselves to be challenged, to advance on a journey. And in the end, we are changed. We see this in today's Gospel. Jesus senses that the person before him is a good and religious man, obedient to the commandments, but he wants to lead him beyond the mere observance of precepts. Through dialogue, Jesus encourages that man to look within, in the light of the love that the Lord himself had shown by his gaze (cf. v. 21), and to discern in that light what his heart truly treasures. And in this way to discover that he cannot attain happiness by filling his life with mere religious observances, but by emptying himself, selling whatever takes up space in his heart, in order to make room for God.

Pause.... for silent moments of Personal Prayer.

Prayer: All knowing God, it is only in the light of your compassionate and non-judging gaze of love, that we see the truth of our own reality and the realities around us. In a world that seeks



instant solution and temporary quick fix for every problem, may we discern what is of eternal value pertaining to our life and mission as Christians.

Hymn: Jesus is the joy of living or any other.

General Intercessions:

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

For our Holy Father, Bishops, Clergy, Religious and those in leadership roles in the Church that they may promulgate the path of Synodality among the people of God and vivify the journey of actively walking together in the Church's evangelizing mission. We pray to the Lord.

For those in governance, that they may be endowed with wisdom to respect and protect the people's rights and diligently work towards promoting common good. We pray to the Lord.

For our Youth that listening to the promptings of the Spirit they may discern Synodality as the call of the hour and the 'pilgrim' character of the Church where, they play a vital role in leading the flock of Christ in building His Kingdom. We pray to the Lord.

We pray to the Lord, as a community of faithful that like Christ our King, we may encounter people as the image and likeness of God and imbibe the virtue of listening so as to live in the Spirit of Christ Himself. We pray to the Lord.

For every baptised person that born into Christ our King as disciples, we may realize our call to be a protagonist in the mission of the Church, enlivening her charism through the ministries and working toward renewal in the Church. We pray to the Lord.

Pause.... for silent moments of Personal Prayer.

Final Prayer:

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name. With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts; Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it. We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder. Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions. Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right. All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.

Closing Hymn:

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