

by Fr. Christopher Szarke

This Sunday, as we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King, we may consider Jesus in this Gospel passage of Matthew. Jesus, the Son of Man, is both the King and Judge who delivers justice to the Universe. His followers are taught about the obligation to provide for those who have needs. People are saved by meeting the needs of those who suffer. Those who act to meet the needs of others are also saved. Mutual relationships are essential.

When we follow Jesus, we need to be consistent in how we proclaim our faith, live out a spiritual practice of prayer and the sacraments, and how we practice justice. God's peace is born from justice. When we practice justice, by contributing to the needs of others, we demonstrate being followers of Jesus. This includes responding to the needs of homelessness, hunger, ending abuse, and improving the conditions in prisons. If we are indifferent to the needs of others, then we cannot say that we are truly following Jesus, since he is present in the poor and those who are oppressed.

We will be moved to deeper solidarity with others when we have empathy and truly recognize that Christ is present in all people. We'll be moved to respond to unjust conditions and to do everything in our power to create positive changes that respect human dignity. We'll understand the importance of sharing resources with others. It's in the space of sharing that God becomes even more present in the world.

Amen.