

THE PASTOR'S POST

NO KINGS

Dear Parish Family:

This Saturday it is expected that millions will gather for the "NO Kings" rallies around the country and the world. Under the headline, "Under America, we have no kings" many will come together in places big and small for these nonviolent protests seeking something new, something better.

For some, these are viewed as political rallies or opposition rallies only to one leader or party. For others, they are just another round of protests and voices that come and go. For others, they are part of a necessary movement for democracy. For others of us, they are a response to injustice, racism, and a destruction of the lives of others.

And they are carried out on Palm Sunday weekend.

Maybe it's a good reminder for us as we enter this Holy Week.

For there are no kings in our faith. There is one king - Christ the King. Period. Full stop.

I wonder at times if we forget this. For if we are honest, we worship at many other altars. Some of us worship at the altar of a president or governor or mayor or other political leader or political movement. Some of us worship at the altar of power and control. Others of us worship at the altar of this sin or that one. Others worship at the mirror thinking we are the masters of our own creation. And truthfully, at times and moments, we are all probably worshipping some earthly kingdom.

Welcome to Holy Week!

Today, we begin our liturgies singing "Hosanna" and welcoming our King, our ONLY king, Jesus Christ into the streets of Jerusalem! We prepare to be washed by the king and fed by him. We suffer with him and, we pray, by how we respond to this outpouring of love that one day we may know the heavenly Kingdom.

That only happens with Jesus Christ. There is

no other king.

So this week, we are invited to let go of all the things we hold to that are worldly, that are not near Jesus, and seek his help to be set free. How many of us are struggling with seeds of racism and prejudice in our hearts, even though we are here at Mass? How many of us are driven by anger and resentment and cause great harm to others? How many of us forget the poor because we may have convinced ourselves that we are too high and too mighty to be bothered? How many of us have forgotten the poor? How many of us are loving WITH limits?

Welcome to Holy Week and welcome, in a particular way, here to St. Brigid's. Here I hope you can come pray with us, walk with us, serve with us, and be humbled with us by the unlimited love of Jesus for you and me. Then, I hope we can go forward together with great Easter hope ready to transform the worlds we dwell in ... not with earthy kingly power but with the heavenly power of resurrection and new life.

In addition to the works of prayer and community, I hope each one of us can find some time to just be quiet. No speaking. No noise. No rally. No procession. Just be quiet. What if each one of us just tries to find a quiet seat each day this week to be - it can be in your room, a part of your house, maybe in the Church? Maybe put a crucifix there with a small candle. Do something each day. If we each can try to take some time to talk from our hearts to our King, Jesus Christ, how great will that be! And more importantly, may we take even more time to listen. That will be even better.

So no kings. Amen! That's not a political statement. It is a statement of faith. May this week bring us closer to the King who inspired us to sing "Hosanna" - Jesus Christ.

Please pray for me. I promise the same.

Featherman

