



Immaculate Conception
Church

Homily for the Feast of our Lord Jesus Christ,
King of the Universe

Year A 2014

Tell me, when you come to the end what do you find? To put it another way, when you come to the end what do you do?

On Holy Saturday when I bless the Easter candle, I say: "Christ is the beginning and the end, the Alpha and the Omega" (the first and last letters of the Greek Alphabet). As we bless this sacred symbol of Christ's triumph over death we are reminded that all things begin in Christ and all things end in Christ.

This is the essence of what today's Feast is all about. Today we are reminded that in the end we come to our final encounter with Christ who is the end of our time and of all time. On this Feast of Christ the King we are reminded that there will come a day when we must give an account of our lives.

We often think this means we will relive all the wrong things, the wrong acts, that we have done. But that is not what Jesus is saying to us in today's Gospel. Rather, Jesus is saying that we will be judged not on the wrong that we have done but on the good things we have failed to do. Being a Christian is not just about avoiding sin and evil...it is about doing good.

Mother Teresa once spoke about this Gospel. She says it far better than I can. Listen to her words:

"At the end of life, we will not be judged by how many diplomas we have received, how much money we have made, how many great things we have done. We will be judged by 'I was hungry and you gave me to eat...I was naked and you clothed me...I was homeless and you took me in.' Hungry not only for food, but hungry for love – naked not only for clothing, but naked of human dignity and respect – homeless not only for want of a room of bricks, but homeless because of rejection. This is Christ in distressing disguise."

The poor, the hungry, the forgotten elderly, the lonely young, the classmate no one wants to talk to, the difficult patient that no one wants to care for, the person who always complains...these are the people that you and I must always recognize as Christ disguised in the least of our sisters and brothers.

What do we find at the end?...Christ asking us if we have truly loved the people that God has put into our lives. And when you come to the end what do you do?...don't wait until the end... Christ is waiting for us to act now.