

**Day 247 – Sunday, November 22, 2020**

**Feeding the Hungry is More Than Just Giving Them Food**

c-a-Christ the King – Sunday, November 22, 2020

Today is the feast of Christ the King. The last Sunday of the liturgical year.  
On this feast we remember, and we celebrate,  
the fact Jesus will come again in all his glory.  
It is also the day we remember that when Jesus comes again in all his glory,  
he will judge the living and the dead.  
If we are going to be judged, and we will, we had better  
prepare ourselves,  
we had better determine what the bases of judgement will be.  
I believe that the bases of judgement will be—  
how we have shared the love of God with those around us.

I would like to share with you my favorite story. A young girl went with her grandfather to sit on a park bench overlooking a small town. A car raced up, a man jumped out and said, “I am thinking about taking a job in this town, but I would like to know what kind of people live here.” The grandfather asked, “What kind of people lived in your old town?” The man replied, “They were a bunch of lying back-stabbing thieves.” The grandfather said, “Oh you better not move here, our town is filled with a bunch of lying back stabbing thieves.” The young man thanked him got in his car and raced away.

A few minutes later another car drove up, and man and his wife got out, went over to the old man and said, “I am thinking about taking a job in this town, but I would like to know what kind of people live here. The grandfather asked, “What kind of people lived in your old town?” The man said, “Oh they were wonderful people, we watched each other’s kids, we had numerous block parties, I would like to stay there, but this a good job opportunity.” The grandfather said, “Oh you better move here, our town is filled with wonderful people who watch out for each other.” The man thanked him and said, “I will probably see you in a few months, as I will take the job.” And he and his wife got into his car and drove off.

The granddaughter was taking this all in, she said, “Grandfather, why did you tell one man that our town was filled with a bunch of lying back stabbing thieves, and the other man that our town is filled with wonderful people.”

The old man in all the wisdom of his ages said, “What you look for in people you will see. If you look for the bad, you will see the bad, if you look for the good you will see the good.”

In the gospel we have the story of the separation of the sheep and goats.

What's the difference between the sheep and the goats.

The sheep looked around them and saw Jesus in the hungry and thirsty,  
the naked and the sick, the stranger and those in prison.

The goats looked around them and did not see Jesus in the hungry and  
thirsty,  
the naked and the sick, the stranger and those in prison.

If you look for Jesus, you will see him everywhere.

If you don't look for Jesus, you will not see him anywhere.

If we see Jesus everywhere, we will share his love with everyone—

not just friends, family but also the hungry, thirsty, sick and stranger.

And conversely if we do not see Jesus anywhere,

we will not share his love with anyone,

not the hungry, thirsty, sick or stranger,

and untimely we will not even share his love with family and friends.

Some may argue with me on this last point...

and I would concede that we will share love with family and friends...

as long as it benefits us—that as far as we would go,

which is just another way of saying we will be selfish,

and there can be no love in selfishness.

Mother Theresa said, "The biggest disease in the world is not leprosy or TB,  
but the feeling of being unwanted and uncared for.

The greatest evil in the world is the lack of love.

What the poor need, even more than food, water, clothing and shelter  
is to be wanted...to feel loved."

Hence the words of Jesus,

"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to the least of my brothers and sisters of mine,  
you did to me."

Because hunger is not just about food.

Someone could be hungry for a smile, and all we give them is a sour look.

Someone could be hungry for a word of encouragement,

and all we did was point out their mistakes.

Someone could be hungry for a word of appreciation, and we did not even give  
them a crumb.

Thirst is not just about water.

What about those who thirst for a word of recognition, and all we did was nag.  
Or those who were thirsty for a sign of friendship, and we ignored them.  
Thirsty for a little companionship, but we never gave them a drop.

A stranger is not just someone you are not familiar with.

What about those whose clothes are different because they are from another country.

Do we welcome into them into our circles of friendship.

What about those who are wearing clothes--but are naked because they lacked self worth,

and we refused to cover them.

What about those who are stripped of self-confidence  
and we made them feel the chill wind of dismissal.

What about those who have been made naked by being bullied or slandered,  
did we come to their aid?

Or those sick with doubt and worry that we don't even notice.

Those wounded by failure and disappointment and we don't care.

I pray that we realize that being hungry, thirsty, sick or stranger is not just something physical.

It is not a matter of "Throwing money at the problem."

If we truly profess to be Christians,

we need to realize that being hungry, thirsty, sick or stranger,  
also has physiological, mental and spiritual dimensions.

And just as the physical dimensions need to be addressed,  
these other dimensions also need to be addressed.

There are so many kind things we could do for one another

if we were a little more observant, a little more aware and sensitive.

Life is not about doing great things, but rather doing little things with great love.

Love is not content with just giving things.

Love demands that we make a personal investment and give of ourselves.

"Life should NOT be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways, chocolate in one hand, champagne in the other, body thoroughly used up, totally worn out and screaming "WOO HOO what a ride!" (Hunter S. Thompson)

Sincerely,

Fr. Jim Kaptein