

## HOMILY CHRIST THE KING OTYRB 2018

Today is the feast of Christ the King. I noticed this year that the Church changed the name of this feast to “Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe.” King of the Universe has really stuck with me all week and I am still trying to wrap my mind around that. The earth seems to be pretty big to me, but what about the Universe? Let’s just look at the size of the earth compared to our sun. The sun is 109 times the diameter of the earth. The sun is so large that one million three hundred thousand earths can fit inside of the sun. Our sun, which is also a star, is only average in comparison to other stars in the Universe. There are stars in the universe that are 690 million times bigger than our sun. Our entire Milky Way Galaxy is only a speck in the Universe. It has been estimated that there are more stars in the Universe than there are grains of sand on earth. If you have ever been to a sandy beach or desert, you can only imagine how many grains of sand are on earth. I am still trying to wrap my mind around how immense our Universe is. And I do not believe that all of this happened by accident, that all of this is sustained by coincidence. The universe was created out of nothing by God, and he sustains it every moment of every day. Jesus is the King of the Universe. There are 7.5 billion people on earth today and Jesus’ his eyes are on you. Of all of God’s creation, God created human beings in his own image and likeness. He loves you unconditionally. You are his favorite. He wants to be in relationship with you. He knows the number of hairs on your head. He has a plan for your life.

In the Gospel reading we encounter Pilate with Jesus. Pilate asks him: “Are you the King of the Jews?” Pilate just asked the King of the Universe if he is the King of the Jews. Knowing what we know today about the immensity of the Universe, Pilate’s question is absolutely ridiculous. Jesus knows that he cannot even begin to explain this to him. He just tells him that

his kingdom does not belong to this world. Pilot has no idea how tiny this world is in comparison to the Universe. Empires all come to an end. The Kingdom of God is eternal. The Kingdom of God is not about where you live, it is about how you live. And God created the Church to give us a spiritual and moral compass.

Jesus Christ is King of the Universe. He created the Universe out of nothing and sustains it every minute of every day. That same Jesus Christ loves us so much that he came to earth as one of us to save us and to show us how to live. And sometimes I think I know better than Jesus Christ. Sometimes I think I know what is best for me and get irritated with Jesus Christ when I do not get what I want when I want it. When I think about it that just seems ridiculous. I am questioning the King of the Universe? And yet Jesus Christ, the King of the Universe, allows us to use our free will. He wants us to choose what is right, but he will not force us to do that. In everything we do we should be asking ourselves: “What would Jesus do? What does Jesus want me to do?” But that is not what I am asking myself all of the time. Sometimes I ask myself: “What is the easy thing to do? How can I avoid any pain, conflict or discomfort? What is everybody else doing? What would be acceptable to my peers? What is acceptable in our culture? What do I want?”

We have an incredible gift of faith. We know the King of the Universe personally and he loves us unconditionally and is present and active in our lives. We know the Gospels and we know what Jesus would do. I think our culture has lost its moral compass. Jesus and the Church provides that moral compass. Why would we choose anything else? Why would we choose not to share this great gift to the people around us? Think of all of the gifts you will give this Christmas? What is the greatest gift you could give? Sharing your faith with someone is a little scary but after all, you have Jesus Christ, the King of the Universe on your side.