Homily for 34th Sunday 2015  
November 22, 2015  
Readings: Dn. 7:13-14, Ps. 93, Rev. 1:5-8, Jn. 18:33-37  
Place: Stella Niagara  
Theme: Christ the King  
Mood: Celebratory, faith-filled, hope-filled.

Today we celebrate Christ as King of the Universe. Christ the King is our model of leadership and authority. We have been created in his image. This article of faith is demonstrated time and again when I observe the students on our campus. They have been created good in their personalities and their desires. The current generation of God’s creation gives us great hope. Granted we all possess and actualize at times the inclination to do evil.

You have observed, I trust, that the world in which we live is in a mess right now. Why? Jesus was sinless. We, however, although good in our being, sin at times in our behaviors. We at times turn our back on Jesus. For the last half century, the populace and leaders of Western Civilization gradually but consistently have been removing from our midst various expressions of faith and religion. We offend God in our attempts not to “offend” people of no faith or different faiths. We have removed faith-based laws, monuments, and symbols, while allowing religion of all kinds, especially Christianity and Islam, to be mocked.

Why is this important? Religion serves as the soul of society. No society will last by eliminating religion, or reducing the role of religion from its foundational prominent place. An irreligious society, or civilization, inevitably collapses.

Throughout human history, as societies and civilizations come and go, its wise-men, shamans, priests, religious leaders all claim that God is punishing their society. We Catholics believe that God does not attempt to “punish” us in this fashion but we accept the moral principle that “sin brings its own ruin." Most major societies collapse from the inside, from internal weakness, internal struggles, insufficient grit, excessive comfort. Historians describe this condition as "the loss of nerve," and "the loss of will to sacrifice for a greater good." We Christians call this self-seeking. This condition is rooted in and flows from sin. What I have just said reflects the writings of the Old Testament: recall the words and deeds of Moses, the admissions and regrets of King David, the dramatic warnings of the prophets Amos and Ezekiel.

How does all this apply to the current chaos in the world and especially in Western Civilization? The Western World’s loss of its founding Catholic faith-vision and its subsequent loss of identity and clear spirituality, loss of confidence has resulted in a loss of positive direction and clear standards. Confusion reigns at a time of collapse. Our current cultural weakness of soul, mind, and heart has created a vacuum, a spiritual, intellectual and political vacuum. Evil is filling the vacuum. The current cultural weakness of Western Civilization has allowed evil to grow and thrive.
What can we do? Western Civilization has been pursuing this fundamental path of confusion initially since the Reformation, intentionally since the Enlightenment, and sadly in the climax of the two World Wars: continuous wars are among the worst enemies of civilization. Historically speaking, not morally speaking, sin brings its own ruin. The Church will survive the current chaos. Western Civilization, many historians perceive is in irreversible collapse. A new civilization will replace us. I suspect it will be rooted in Catholic and evangelical Protestantism.

What can we do? Celebrate Christ as King of the Universe. Pray more than ever. Evangelize when and where possible. Accompany all people with compassion, friendship, faith, hope and love. The Church in the USA has bottomed out, has turned the corner, and is in process of developing a new spirituality. This 300 year pattern for the Church has occurred five times previously in Church History. The pattern for the collapse of political kingdoms has occurred many hundreds of times before.

I conclude with the hopeful words of two saints: the 14th century Saint Julian of Norwich, who writes, "All will be well. All will be well. All manner of things will be well;" and from St. Teresa of Avila, "Let nothing disturb you. Let nothing frighten you. All things are passing. God alone remains constant. Whoever has God lacks nothing."

We celebrate the reign of Christ the King. His Church will last forever and “the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” (Matthew 16:18) Let’s pray and work that Christ’s Holy Spirit will more and more prevail in our individual lives and in the world. We believe that Christ reigns, that “all will be well,” and that “whoever has God lacks nothing.” May our lives show that we acknowledge and celebrate Christ as King of the Universe.