

Pastor's Letter

November 23, 2025—Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Dear Church Family,

On the face of it, it was a strange thing for the criminal hanging on a cross next to Jesus to say. "Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom." What kingdom could Jesus possibly be coming into? He was suffering the most excruciating, humiliating death that twisted Roman ingenuity could devise, one expressly reserved for those who held themselves up in opposition to the power and authority of Rome. He was being made an example, a warning, to all those who might challenge the might of the emperor.

And yet, the criminal, who the tradition of the church has named Dysmas, called him Lord. Why? Maybe it was because he heard Jesus forgive his executioners even as they crucified him. "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do." Maybe this one who called God "Father" could help him find forgiveness for his own criminal past.

When Jesus went to the cross, he turned our understanding of what power and kingship look like upside down. Unlike worldly rulers, Jesus did not place himself above us. He entered completely into the struggles and pain of our lives. Instead of imposing his will on us, he gently invites us to allow him to heal our suffering and the brokenness of sin by absorbing it into himself, experiencing death with us so that we might share in his life. A real King gives himself for his people. His crucifixion showed the depth of his love. His resurrection showed the height of his power and authority.

Because Christ is King of the universe, the world does not look at the cross the same way it did in Roman times. Under the sign of the cross, Christ has conquered the hearts of billions of people, not by shedding blood on the battlefield, but by his own blood poured out for us at the place called the Skull. His sacrificial love has overthrown sin, death, and the power of evil. To all who believe, he has thrown open the door to heaven where he reigns in glory at the right hand of the Father. May he always rule in our hearts.

Blessings,

Fr. Scott

Thanksgiving Collection

This year's Thanksgiving collection will be sent to Quincy Catholic Charities.

