

SAINT ANTONINE NEWS

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JESUS IS LORD TO THE GLORY OF THE FATHER

I DESIRE THAT YOU CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF THE KINGSHIP OF MY SON ENTHUSIASTICALLY & FERVENTLY THAT ALL MAY KNOW HIM.

(The Father Speaks to His children)

THE CRUNCH IS ON.

Not only is time taking on new dimensions of speed, prices are escalating at alarming rates, insurance costs have left the realm of the reasonable, suffering & death are claiming many victims & health care coverage gets more & more complicated with rising deductions & frustration. The hospitals are bursting as the churches are emptying. Parties prevail as usual & Jesus remains a prisoner in tabernacles with few visitors. The parkway has become literally that, a park way where one pays exorbitant tolls to sit in lines for hours. Gridlock prevails in most cities & many towns & accidents mount as drivers drive more aggressively trying to beat lights, pass on the right which is a shoulder & tailgate causing more accidents & stress. It feels like getting into a car is like waiting for an accident to happen.

We have an elaborate rail system built over many years but much is delivered by trucks clogging our highways & streets to say nothing of perpetual Amazon deliveries. Convenience at the price of sanity? We can see how the evil one operates with his endless time & attention stealing distractions.

And yet the Father calls us to silence & solitude & more time in His Presence...to just be with Him. And this is the time of the Father in a special way for He is our destination. The plan of our redemption is meant to take us home to the Father from whence we came before even time began. He traced out a road, a narrow road for us to get back to him & gave us a road map in His Word. He sent His Son to make it possible for the gates of heaven to be open for us again by His paying the price of our ransom which He paid with His life for the wages of sin is death. Jesus gave His Mother to be the dispenser of all graces much to the rage of the evil one...to be defeated by a human & a human woman at that. So he is in his last throes...so stand firm no matter what.

OCIA HAS STARTED!

...and the class is learning how critical Baptism is for without it, we cannot enter into the Father's embrace. They may attain to a state of peace & joy but they will not get to see the face of the Father if the stain of original sin has not been removed, washed away by the sacrament of Baptism. So even though the world has fallen & we have fallen many times, our good God has provided a way for us to return to Him & so Our Lady who is full of grace dispenses it to us as we ask for it to help us regain our rightful heavenly place as His children next to Him where He yearns for us to be. Every good Father wants his children near him.

The names of the candidates taking the class have to be turned into the Archdiocese soon, so get on the war path to get anyone you know who has not been baptized here next Tuesday at 2:30 in the rectory. You don't even have to know them personally. An Amazon delivery person came in & there is always some announcement paper I give them as I take the package. I get straight to the point...how are they doing physically in this world crashing around us & how is the state of your soul? This young man pulled out his crucifix & said he is fine & I asked him if he had all the sacraments. He had them all except the last one...Confirmation so I said there is a class going on now. Of course he couldn't join it & lives in Elizabeth but the bee was put on his bonnet to get into a class near him to learn about & receive the sacrament of Confirmation which I told him makes him a soldier of Christ...& there's a war going on & God needs his soldiers to step up to the plate armed with the weapon of His Mother...the rosary which, by the way, is more powerful than nuclear bombs I informed him. So be bold! Ask! People see the writing on the walls of the world & how they are crumbling & they want & need hope for what comes next & where.

AS WE APPROACH THE GREAT SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING...

...let us prepare & come up with a way you might ask your priest to implement as we still have a couple of weeks to get ready. If he is willing, there could be a solemn holy hour of REPARATION for the heart of Jesus that has been so wounded with blatant blasphemies & indifference. The Blessed Sacrament could be put at the center of the altar & incensed. Then we could have an Act of Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus recited by all & perhaps follow that with the Litany of the Sacred Heart. The need for reparation in our sin-drenched world could not be greater. Here is the prayer:



Most Sweet Jesus, Redeemer of the human race, look down upon us, humbly prostrate before Thine altar. We are Thine & Thine we wish to be; but to be more surely united with Thee, behold each one of us freely consecrates himself today to Thy Most Sacred Heart.

Many, indeed, have never known Thee; many, too, despising Thy precepts, have rejected Thee. Have mercy on them all, most merciful Jesus, & draw them to Thy Sacred Heart. Be Thou King, O Lord, not only to the faithful who have never forsaken Thee, but also of the prodigal children who have abandoned Thee, grant that they may quickly return to their Father's house, lest they die of wretchedness & hunger.

Be Thou King of those who are deceived by erroneous opinions, or whom discord keeps aloof & call them back to the harbor of truth & unity of faith, so that soon there may be but one flock & one shepherd.

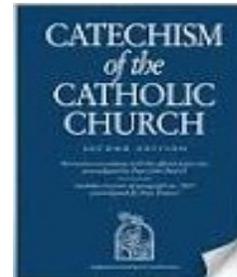
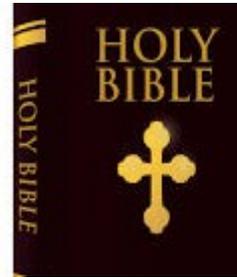
Be Thou King of those who even now sit in the shadow of idolatry or Islam & refuse not Thou to bring them into the light of Thy Kingdom. Look, finally, with eyes of pity upon the children of that race, which was for so long a time Thy Chosen people; & let Thy Blood, which was once invoked upon them in vengeance, now descend upon them also in a cleansing flood of redemption & eternal life.

Grant, O Lord, to Thy Church, assurance of freedom & immunity from harm; give peace & order to all nations, & make the earth resound from pole to pole with one cry: Praise to the Divine Heart that wrought our salvation: to it be glory & honor forever. Amen.

The service could end with the Litany to the Sacred Heart.

THE ONLY THING THAT MATTERS & HAS EVER MATTERED IS THE SALVATION OF SOULS.

There seems to be a special urgency in the air in these unprecedented times. As the Church goes through its passion & death before it can rise in resurrection, it is obvious there are tough times ahead of us. This has all been prophesied. Go to # 675 in the Catechism & if you don't have one, you need to get one for who knows when the infernal prince of the airwaves shuts it down & you will need recourse to a printed resource. Reading real books you can hold in your hand & underline & ponder has become a lost art.



LISTENING SESSIONS

Are on-going in dioceses everywhere as church attendance plummets, churches are closing & being sold, insurance costs & inflation rocket & the faithful are left wondering where do we go from here. Pastors are scrambling to come up with the means to preserve their congregations & their facilities. Many are having to take on serving multiple parishes as vocations in many places are not enough to fill the gap of retiring priests. St. Antoninus is going through the same process as discussions continue as to how to merge with neighboring parishes to serve the needs of the changing demographics & cope with all the burgeoning economic realities. The next year will be devoted to negotiating how all that can be realized while maintaining the unique charisms of each parish. The great influx of Spanish speakers requires adapting existing programs to accommodate their needs.

Here at St. Antoninus, renting out parts of the buildings is being looked into. The convent has a prospective renter that is a group that wants to use it as a retreat center & renovations are taking place in anticipation of that. They are very aware of the urgency of reaching souls now as time is running out from the way the world is crumbling all around us. Hopefully it will be a power house of prayer & conversion. The rectory will also have to find users, keeping only office areas maintained as all efforts are focused on preserving the beautiful, anointed church where the most important & critical thing goes on there for the people: The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. That Sunday liturgy is & has always been the beating heart of this parish. It is what drew people here after St. A's rose from the ashes after being closed when the Dominicans left.