



## CCHD Homily Help

### Collection Weekend of November 20-21, 2021

*Prepared by Fr. Larry Dowling*

#### Talking Points from the Readings & CCHD Connections

##### **The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe**

###### First Reading - Daniel 7:13-14

As the visions during the night continued, I saw one like a Son of man coming, on the clouds of heaven; when he reached the Ancient One and was presented before him, the one like a Son of man received dominion, glory, and kingship; all peoples, nations, and languages serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not be taken away, his kingship shall not be destroyed.

+ Our various choices in life often have us giving ourselves over to different forces, different things that we can allow to have dominion over us. Things like ego needs, needing the latest technological gadget, addictions to food, drugs, alcohol, sex, the internet, or social media, one or several of the 7 deadly sins, etc.

+This Feast Day closing out our liturgical year and prepping us for our Advent journey next week invites us to reassess the primary thing or Person to Whom we should give dominion over our lives: Christ Our King. Jesus Christ, above all other enticements, invites us – no coercion here! – to join with the One who created us, gave us the gift of free will, who lived died and rose to bless these precious bodies, imbued with the Spirit of God, each with a unique purpose. His dominion gives us the ultimate freedom to be all that God created us to be, free to pursue and develop our unique God given potential, God trusting that we will use it to do the same as God dies for us.

###### Second Reading - Rv 1:5-8

Jesus Christ is the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead and ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, who has made us into a kingdom, priests for his God and Father, to him be glory and power forever and ever. Amen.

Behold, he is coming amid the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him. All the peoples of the earth will lament him. Yes. Amen.

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, " says the Lord God, "the one who is and who was and who is to come, the almighty."

+ We are at our best when we are faithful to God's faithfulness to us. Jesus sets the tone for us... his faithfulness to his Abba/Father/Dad was manifested, first and foremost, in the love between them, which gave Jesus the total freedom to care for absolutely everyone he encountered - healing, casting out demons, lovingly, but firmly challenging abusive power, with a preferential (but not exclusive) love for those who were not given the opportunity to pursue and realize their God-given potential.

+The mission of CCHD is to do exactly what Jesus did... to invite the Catholic community to express our gratitude for the gift of God's love and faithfulness to us by sharing our treasure, time, and talent to give those many people who, for various reasons beyond their control, have not been given



the opportunity to rise to their fullest God-given potential for themselves, their families, and their communities.

Gospel - Jn 18:33b-37

Pilate said to Jesus, "Are you the King of the Jews?"

Jesus answered, "Do you say this on your own or have others told you about me?"

Pilate answered, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?"

Jesus answered, "My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom did belong to this world, my attendants would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not here."

So, Pilate said to him, "Then you are a king?"

Jesus answered, "You say I am a king. For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

+ Truth be told, Jesus, through his life journey has, through word and action, been revealing to others the truth of God's love and passion for every one of us. He especially challenges those who have the power of monetary resources, the power of political influence, the power to positively impact the lives of others with the resources of time, talent, and treasure that we were able to develop especially because we had the necessary supports in our lives to pursue our goals and support our loved ones. Sadly, there are many in our society who do not have those same supports, in many cases because of forces beyond their control.

+ Jesus models for those of us who have been given much what is expected of us in being true to who God created us to be: life-giving to others exactly because God has given us the gift of life and the ability to develop and share our gifts.

+The power of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development is not that it just lifts the poor but, by assisting the poor in pursuing their God-given potential, empowers us, lifts all of us up, in fulfilling our God-given purpose: to share the fullness of our gifts that all might be empowered by the love of God!