



2022 CCHD Collection Weekend Homily Help

Reading 1

2 Sm 5:1-3

In those days, all the tribes of Israel came to David in Hebron and said:
"Here we are, your bone and your flesh.

In days past, when Saul was our king,
it was you who led the Israelites out and brought them back.

And the LORD said to you,
'You shall shepherd my people Israel
and shall be commander of Israel.'"

When all the elders of Israel came to David in Hebron,
King David made an agreement with them there before the LORD,
and they anointed him king of Israel.

- ✦ In a politically and culturally divided time period it is so refreshing and necessary to be reminded that we are all ultimately one. There are two reactions a group can have to a crisis, it can either scatter or come together. In the first reading the calamitous death of Saul could have been the end of Israel. We take for granted the twelve tribes staying together, without remarking on how miraculous that was. Infighting and disagreement would arise at various points in the history of the Israelites. At the death of Saul, its first king, literal tribalism could have sprung up and destroyed the unity of this Chosen people. About a century later, there would indeed be a civil war, which resulted in division. But, not here. Notice that *all* of the tribes go to David and emphasize their kinship with him. One of the best descriptions of the Church is a family of families. We cannot exist as we so often want to as my parish vs your parish, my group vs. your group. The CCHD is an organizational reminder that we are a universal family. Some of our sisters and brothers are in crisis. They are facing calamities hard for us to imagine. We have the same King, Jesus, who makes us one. And our King, calls us to be merciful and generous.
- ✦ The Feast Day of Christ the King of the Universe caps off the liturgical year. It was created in 1925 as a feast day in the wake of one world war in the face of rising secularism and atheism. Following the other world war and even more upheaval subsequent popes made it much more prominent. In the context of current upheaval, with a climate crisis, pandemics, and unrest we can look to our true shepherd, Jesus, our anointed one, who is the true King of the Universe. He's the one who is truly in charge. And He calls us from our "tribes" from our silos across countries, continents, languages, cultures, borders, and barriers to be one. He calls us to be His, which is to say, He calls us to love and be in communion with Him and one another. The CCHD is one of the ways we can incarnate that communion, that love. It makes real and tangible our empathy and our support, by helping us meet the all too real needs of our sisters and brothers.

Reading 2

Col 1:12-20

Brothers and sisters:

Let us give thanks to the Father,
who has made you fit to share
in the inheritance of the holy ones in light.
He delivered us from the power of darkness
and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,
in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation.
For in him were created all things in heaven and on earth,
the visible and the invisible,
whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers;
all things were created through him and for him.
He is before all things,
and in him all things hold together.
He is the head of the body, the church.
He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead,
that in all things he himself might be preeminent.
For in him all the fullness was pleased to dwell,
and through him to reconcile all things for him,
making peace by the blood of his cross
through him, whether those on earth or those in heaven

† Thank God for the good things we have. We have many good gifts, chief among them God's very life which He shares with us. He rescues us from the darkness of selfishness and sin and brings us to a place of self-gift, a place of mercy. Hellacious souls only think of themselves and their own needs. They fail to think of anyone but themselves. Heavenly souls are marked by their generosity. Think of the saints and how generous they are. Think of the person who has loved you the most in this life and how good they've been to you. Generosity, Mercy, Love, these are hallmarks of God's life. All of creation, all the good we have is secondary to living God's life. God forms us as a body His Body, with many parts. We're each of us a small piece in that body, but a beautiful piece of that body. Each of us has something to give to that Body. Each of us has a roll to play. Red blood cells exist to spread oxygen into all the nooks and crannies of the body. A ligament that is cut off from this exchange dies. We are called to spread God's love in real ways to all the world, to all of God's Body so that they may encounter God and all of us may Live. The CCHD is just one way of us getting to do that. It is one way of us spreading God's love to people we may never meet, but who are joined to us in Christ.

Gospel

Lk 23:35-43

The rulers sneered at Jesus and said,
"He saved others, let him save himself

if he is the chosen one, the Christ of God."
Even the soldiers jeered at him.
As they approached to offer him wine they called out,
"If you are King of the Jews, save yourself."
Above him there was an inscription that read,
"This is the King of the Jews."

Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying,
"Are you not the Christ?
Save yourself and us."
The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply,
"Have you no fear of God,
for you are subject to the same condemnation?
And indeed, we have been condemned justly,
for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes,
but this man has done nothing criminal."
Then he said,
"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."
He replied to him,
"Amen, I say to you,
today you will be with me in Paradise."

- + The mystery of the cross is a unique mystery of love and compassion. Dismas, the 'good criminal' represents all of us. He's all of us after our bad decisions bring us to point of condemnation. He's us realizing our sinfulness, knowing we don't deserve mercy and yet still asking for it. Dismas' statement "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom" is one of the most poignant pleas in all of scripture. It's a plea, worded in different ways, we've all pled. And Jesus response is Mercy. As Pope Francis said, the face of God is Mercy. That's the God who we believe in, the God to whom we run, and who grasps us in His arms. If that's our God, how can we be otherwise then to be merciful and generous when our sisters and brothers are in need. The CCHD is a Christian response toward the unique needs of our brothers and sisters. It is one way for us to respond as Christ would, to be Christ's hands and feet in the world. There are many ways of living out that call, CCHD is one of them. The generosity we share helps us to relieve the worries and fears of others and to provide them with hope when they need it.
- + Jesus has positioned Himself not with those sneering at sinners, but crucified alongside of them. Our King is a king from the cross. He is a king who suffers and sacrifices. He is a king who loves His people. And his people are in need. All of us need a savior. Some of us need a savior and a financial leg up. The CCHD allows us to join with them in their need. Helping others, loving others is transformative. It transforms us, if we let it, to become more like Christ. And that is what the Kingdom of God is about. That's the duty of a citizen of the Kingdom.