

Office Hours
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Model Families: Do you know a family or families that are exemplary in their faith and charity in your parish or community? It is time for you to nominate them as Model Families of 2019! The Adult Faith Formation Commission is looking for nominations of model families. Write a short biography of the family and tell us why the family is a model of faith and charity. Please indicate the parish or town of the family. Ask the permission of the family you are nominating. When you have obtained the consent of the family, submit a copy of the short biography to adultfaith@padiocese.ca

A committee will choose 6 families as “Model Families of 2019,” and they will be recognized at the **Family Conference in 2019**. Rewards will be given to the families as well as to the ones who nominated them.

Suggested Materials:

- (1) *Lectio Divina of the Gospels* (book) by United States Conference of Catholic Bishops;
- (2) *Encountering Christ in Harmony* (book) by United States Conference of Catholic Bishops;
- (3) *Deacons: Servants of Charity* (book) by Pope Francis;
- (4) *Embrace of Hope: Compassion in Times of Illness* (book) by Pope Francis.

For more resources: padiocese.sk.ca or bmjsajonas.com

November: 1 Solemnity of All Saints; 2 All Souls; 3 St. Francis of Assisi; 9 Dedication of the Lateran Basilica; 10 St. Leo the Great - Pope, Doctor; 12 St. Josaphat - Bishop, Martyr; 15 St. Albert the Great - Bishop, Doctor; 16 St. Margaret of Scotland, St. Gertrude - Virgin; 17 St. Elizabeth of Hungary - Religious; 21 The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary; 22 St. Cecilia - Virgin, Martyr; 23 St. Clement I - Pope, Martyr, St. Columbanus - Abbot, Missionary; 24 St. Andrew Dung-Lac and his Companions - Martyrs; 25 Christ the King; 30 St. Andrew - Apostle

Next issue's contents:

Bishop Albert's Christmas Greeting; Getting to know a patron saint of our diocese; Bible Study, Resources for faith formation, and much more...

Editors:

Sr. Mariette Bilodeau (SK, Canada), Matthew Allen Newland, PhD (QC, Canada), Fr. Millan Sajonas (SK, Canada), and Bishop Albert Thevenot, M. Afr.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION OFFICE

Diocese of Prince Albert

IMDVS November 2018

John 18:33-37: Are You the King of the Jews?

By Fr. Millan Sajonas

The gospel passage belongs to the scene where Jesus is brought to Pilate (John 18:28-40). In this passage, we read how the Roman procurator interrogated Jesus and his accusers. Though there was a general animosity and hatred to the Roman occupation, it seemed not all the Jews had the same sentiments and perspective on their foreign rulers. Pilate is depicted as someone trying to avoid condemning Jesus. Yet despite the attempts, when pressured, Pilate succumbed to the insinuations and manipulations of Jesus' accusers. The passage is one of the rare occasions that Jesus accepted an affirmation of his identity. In this case, Jesus elaborated about his kingdom and replied Pilate, “You say that I am a king.” Thus, the passage is about Jesus' revelation of himself.

At the end of the liturgical year, we celebrate the feast of Christ the King. It is a time to contemplate the universal kingship of Jesus. It is a time to renew our allegiance to the Lord. It is a time to reflect on the personal coming of Jesus in our respective lives, as well as the coming of Jesus at the Parousia. When Jesus appeared to Thomas after the resurrection, the disciple said, “My Lord and my God!” (John 20:28). How often do we say these words, acknowledging Jesus as our Lord and our God? It is a simple statement that summarizes a fundamental belief in the person of Jesus' divinity, and his mission as king. Such a bold pronouncement penetrates our being, claiming a share to the Lord and subjecting ourselves to his omnipotence.

However, there is another dimension of Jesus' kingship, and it is connected to the truth. Like Pilate, we could ask the question, “What is truth?” Jesus does not answer this inquiry here. In John 14:6, the Lord says, “I am the way, the truth, and the life.” We can only know and deduce from what the Lord has revealed in his time on earth, his public ministry. Then, to say, “Jesus is our King,” means to imitate his ways, his truths, and his life.

Nowadays, truth is being treated as subjective, a pragmatic truth that denies the reality of objective truth. Various circumstances demand to be scrutinized on the truth of Christ. This truth, in its core, resonates goodness and love. Anything contrary to the way of good and love distorts the concept of truth. It is no longer truth, but desire. If it is “true” when it is for “my good,” “my way,” and “my feeling,” then, the understanding of truth moves away from the life, the truth, and the way of Christ. It is self-centered. The self becomes a king, a god. Jesus' kingship is to bear witness to truth. Jesus said, “All who are on the side of truth listen to my voice.” (Continued in Page 2)

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Reality tells us that it is hard to know the truth. It can be drowned by the noisy opinions of others that may suppress truth, or change truth. Jesus' instruction, "Listen to my voice," offers an approach to the truth. Listening requires discernment and careful understanding of things. It is taking time out of the bustle and busyness of life. It is taking time for retreat, and seclusion, which is conducive for the voice of God to be heard. When one is bombarded with ideas and reminders of the complexity of the reality of life, it is important to remember that the truth reveals itself in simplicity. Such is faith in Jesus, our Lord and God. We go back to our basic prayers, knowing them by heart and understanding what they teach, for they proclaim the fundamental truths so that we may profess truth in our words as well as in our actions. We go back to our Sacred Scripture where the life of our Lord can be read and reflected. Through the Holy Spirit, may we imitate the Lord, our King, to whom we subject our respective lives! In imitating the Lord, we love as "Jesus loves" reaching out to our brothers and sisters.

Questions For Reflection:

1. Is Christ your King? What is the relevance of the feast of Christ the King in your life?
2. How do you show that you are a disciple of Jesus?
3. Can you distinguish truth from desire? Define truth and desire in your own words.
4. What do you do when you are faced with confusion and challenges in life?
5. "Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life." How can you relate this statement to the basic prayers that we have? Can you find its relationship to the articles of faith contained in the "Apostle's Creed"?

Getting to know...St Andrew, the Apostle. Andrew, born at Bethsaida, was a disciple of John the Baptist before he became a follower of Christ, to whom he also brought his brother Peter. With Philip he presented the Gentiles to Christ and, before the miracle in the desert, it was Andrew who pointed out to Christ the boy carrying the loaves and fishes. After Pentecost, he preached the Gospel in many lands and was put to death by crucifixion at Achaia (Christian Prayer: The Liturgy of the Hours, St. Paul Editions, 1976, p. 1283)

His feast day is observed on 30th of November. Saint André - Apôtre is the patron saint of the francophone Roman Catholic Church in North Battleford, Saskatchewan that bears his name. Let us pray through the intercession of St. Andrew that the works of evangelization in the diocese may bring people closer to Christ. May this closeness to Christ be manifested in the increase of charitable deeds.

All Saints' Day Activities

1. List your favorite saints.
2. Why are these your favorite saints?
3. What are the qualities that you would like to imitate from these saints?
4. How will you imitate the lives of these saints in your own ways?

All Souls' Day Activities

1. Have you taken time to remember your departed loved ones and friends? How?
2. Can you still remember the names of your departed loved ones and friends? List them.
3. How did these people touch your lives leading you to consider them special and dear to you?