



Archdiocese of San Antonio
Most Rev. Gustavo García-Siller



70th Anniversary of Christ the King Church
November 23, 2014

Good Morning My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This is a great day of celebration. Viva Cristo Rey! Viva!! Viva Cristo Rey! Viva!! Viva Cristo Rey! Viva!!! We are not only celebrating the feast of Christ the King but also the 70th anniversary of this remarkable faith community, founded under the patronage of Christ the King.

Many people know this parish as “The Church that tamales built.” It was 70 years ago when a group of women struck upon the idea that they would make and sell their homemade tamales to help raise funds to build a church. It is an ironic contrast that Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, would rely on such a simple food made with the humility and the faith of these women to have a church built in His name.

Yet, we should not be surprised that the King of Kings who was born in stable, raised in the humble home of a carpenter, and executed as though he were a common criminal would also give us His body and blood for all time in the form of simple bread and wine. Like our beloved King, who came to serve and not to be served, the legacy of faith we celebrate today was born in the hearts and faithful dedication of who understood unselfish service.

In today's gospel, Jesus proclaims “Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.” Too often the second coming of Christ the King, to complete His kingdom, is depicted with fear and trepidation. Why do so many miss the glory of the moment when the Kingdom of God,

the fulfillment of God's plan for mankind is not only near, but it is complete? As Pope Benedict XVI proclaimed "We announce not only the first coming of Christ, but also a second coming which is much more beautiful than the first."

Jesus spent his whole ministry on earth telling us what the Kingdom of Heaven would be like. There will no longer be sickness, suffering, or death. Human hearts will forever be filled with compassion and mercy when we learn to truly love one another, caring about everyone, transforming the world with peace and justice, and completing a final victory over every evil.

Just as Adam and Eve walked in the Garden of Eden with God, mankind will intimately converse with the Father who will always be in our midst. Humanity's relationship will be restored as our reconciliation by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is truly absolute.

Jesus tells us that "the righteous" will live eternally in the loving embrace of the Father. As Jesus' disciples, we need not fear the glory of this ultimate alleluia. This moment of the resurrection of those who belong to Christ. "The last enemy, death, will be destroyed...and God will be all in all."

Frequently we see this celebration of God's ultimate victory over all that is evil distorted into a science-fiction drama where somehow the outcome is in doubt. We already know that God's victory over sin will be complete. As Disciples of Christ and lead by the Holy Spirit, we will carry out our vocation to prepare the house of the Lord for all time.

The coming of Christ the King is a love story. Our hearts are transformed by the Grace of God as we are called to build His kingdom with a tenderness and mercy; feeding the hungry and quenching the thirst of those who are suffering with living water. There will no longer be strangers among us, because we will live as a family, sharing the joys and sorrows of life, wiping away every tear and celebrating every happiness. We will use the keys of peace and forgiveness to unlock forever all that imprisons those who have been entrapped by the false promises of sin.

As we pray in the joyful hope of the coming of Jesus Christ who shepherds us through the darkest of valleys to the day when we will never fear evil, our souls refreshed and our hearts filled to overflowing.

In his Apostolic Exhortation, the Joy of the Gospel, Pope Francis writes: "The new evangelization calls for personal involvement on the part of each of the baptized. Every Christian is challenged, here and now, to be actively engaged in evangelization... Every Christian is a missionary...we are always missionary disciples." It is in this spirit that we participate in the building of the kingdom, joyfully proclaiming Jesus Christ.

Saint Josemaria Escriva teaches us how we can begin to live in the joy of the Kingdom today, because Jesus lives in our hearts now. He said, "Christ should reign first and foremost in our soul. But in order for him to reign in me, I need his abundant grace. Only in that way can my every heartbeat and breath, my least intense look, my most ordinary word, my most basic feeling be transformed into a hosanna to Christ my King." Viva Cristo Rey! Viva!! Viva Cristo Rey! Viva!! Viva Cristo Rey! Viva!!!