

I don't know if kids still play this or even if it is allowed - when we were in grade school we would often play king of the hill on the snow piles that the plow would create when it cleared the school parking lot

I'm sure there were a few injuries, but nothing serious, at least that I can remember

What is the point of being King of the Hill? - it is to be able to literally look down on others

Now I love America - I truly believe I live in the best country in the world - however, I just want you to think about something real quick - in the history of America, we have not had any American presidents who have been declared recognized saints of the Catholic Church - however, there have been numerous kings who have been declared saints: Louis IX of France, Stephen I of Hungary, Edward the Confessor of England are a few examples - these men realized that their kingship came from God and that they had a duty to serve the people in their realm with justice and charity

We have a little less than a month and half left of 2021 - however, in the liturgical calendar of the Roman Catholic Church, we are at the end - today is the last Sunday of the liturgical year - next Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent - that means that this Sunday, the last Sunday of the liturgical year is the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

I love this title - it reminds me of the stupid ice breaker question, "If you could have any super power, what would it be?" - Jesus Christ is real and He has all the super powers - He proved that 2000 years ago when He took on our human nature, when the Second Person of God, the Creator of the Universe, became one of us without sacrificing His divine nature

However, hundreds of years before Jesus came, prophets and others gave hope to God's people by talking about the coming of one who would establish an everlasting kingdom

In the first reading from Daniel, we hear about the Son of man - this was a term used for the coming Messiah - the Ancient One is God the Father - because of Jesus' obedience to God the Father, Jesus, through His death, resurrection, and ascension, has received dominion, glory, and kingship over all peoples, nations, and languages - we know that Jesus' kingdom will never end

Daniel knows this and says, "His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not be taken away, his kingship shall not be destroyed."

Again, kings are not inherently evil - power does not have to corrupt - absolute power does not absolutely corrupt - especially when it comes to God, to Jesus Christ

There was a theology in the 1970's called Liberation Theology - it was condemned by Saint Pope John Paul II - the reason Liberation Theology was condemned was because it said that Jesus came to give liberation to the lower classes from the oppressive rule of the upper class - it said that this class warfare was more important than our liberation from sin - yes, as Christians, we should strive for justice - but Jesus did not come to cause clashes

between the classes - Jesus did not come to empower the lower classes to overthrow the upper class - Jesus came to free us from sin and death

This is what the second reading from Revelations reminds us - St. John the Apostle, the author of Revelations, reminds us that Jesus is the Ruler of the kings of the earth - Jesus is the King of kings - St. John reminds us, "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."

St. John goes on to say that every eye will see Jesus - that all the peoples of the earth will lament Jesus - that God is the alpha and omega - for those of you who are a little rusty on the Greek, alpha and omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet - so it would be like saying God is the a and the z - the beginning and the end - God is King over the beginning, the end, and everything in between - Jesus is King of the universe - this also means if there is intelligent life out in the, Jesus is their King as well

In the Gospel, Jesus admits that He is a king - Pilate asks Jesus, "Are you king of the Jews?" - this is like asking my parents if they are the parents of my brother, Daniel - yes, they are the parents of my brother, Daniel - but they are also parents of me and my three sisters

Yes, Jesus is the King of the Jews, but He is also the King of every person that has ever lived - Jesus tells Pilate that His Kingdom does not belong to this world - Jesus' Kingdom is not confined by space and time

Jesus does not say that He has come to free the poor from the oppression of the rich as Liberation Theology would want us to believe - no - Jesus took on human flesh, our human nature - Jesus was born of Mary to testify to the truth

Truth - what is truth? - truth is what is - truth is reality - our faith in Jesus, our relationship with Jesus, helps to better recognize and see the truth

It is our relationship with Jesus and His bride, the Church, that allows us to see that things like abortion, euthanasia, artificial contraception, IVF, and other things as objectively evil

Jesus finishes today's reading by saying, "Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." - do you belong to the truth? - do you belong to Jesus Christ?

Our baptism tells us that we belong to Jesus Christ - our baptism tells us that we are brothers and sisters in Christ - so are you listening to Jesus' voice?

Sometimes it can feel like God does not have our best interest in mind - if love is willing the good of the other, it sometimes feels like God does not love us - that He does not desire our good - this is exactly what Satan got Adam and Eve to believe in the Garden of Eden - Satan got Adam and Eve to believe that God was holding back on them - that life could be even better if they were not obedient to God's rules

Jesus is the original good king - all the king saints that have existed in the past 2000 years have been that way only because they patterned their kingship on Jesus Christ's kingship

The world's definition of freedom is to do whatever I want whenever I want - It does not take much time and energy to see that this philosophy actually leads to addiction, the opposite of freedom

As I have mentioned before, the Church talks about freedom for excellence - when we listen to Jesus' voice, when we listen to His rules and guidance for our lives, when we listen to His bride, the Catholic Church, it is then that true freedom, the freedom for excellence, becomes possible

If you want to be the best version of yourself, if you want to be what God created you to be, then we need to submit humbly to the voice of God, the rules of God, the desires of God...for our lives

We must believe and trust that Jesus, the Truth, will truly set us free, free to be the best version of ourselves, free to be saints

Jesus wants to be King of your life - not to oppress you, but to free you - not to enslave you, but to make you His brother or sister - to make you a son or daughter of God the Father - will you let Him? - will you let Jesus be King of your life? - will you let Jesus be your King?