

## Solemnity of Christ the King



By God's grace, we have been restored from a seemingly hopeless state of darkness and addiction. Helping others who are in need has now become a way of life for us, even when the needy have self-inflicted wounds. This week, we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King as our liturgical calendar concludes before Advent. We can look with hope for the return of our King as we gaze at the world through the lens of service.

Addiction recovery literature emphasizes the urgency with which we must take this approach. "Particularly was it imperative to work with others as he had worked with me. Faith without works was dead, he said. And how appallingly true for the alcoholic! For if an alcoholic failed to perfect and enlarge his spiritual life through work and self-sacrifice for others, he could not survive the certain trials and low spots ahead. If he did not work, he would surely drink again, and if he drank, he would surely die. Then faith would be dead indeed" (*Alcoholics Anonymous*, p. 14-15).

This *service imperative* is not only necessary for the recovering alcoholic but for all who seek addiction recovery. It is consistent with the path of freedom we walk and the message offered by Christ in this week's Gospel reading. Notice the compelling similarities in both tone and content between the text of the Big Book and the discourse of this Sunday's Gospel Reading:

*Jesus said to his disciples:*

*"When the Son of Man comes in his glory,  
and all the angels with him,  
he will sit upon his glorious throne,  
and all the nations will be assembled before  
him. And he will separate them one from another,  
as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.  
He will place the sheep on his right  
and the goats on his left.  
Then the king will say to those on his right,  
'Come, you who are blessed by my Father.  
Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the  
foundation of the world.  
For I was hungry and you gave me food,  
I was thirsty and you gave me drink,  
a stranger and you welcomed me,  
naked and you clothed me,  
ill and you cared for me,  
in prison and you visited me.'"*

Authentic connections with newcomers to recovery provide an opportunity to give back what we've been freely given. Doing so deepens our faith journey and provides one of our greatest defenses against acting out.

## **FYZWjcb Ei Yghcbg**

Perhaps you are in a position where you feel you are most in need—*rock bottom*, as it is sometimes referred. Embrace the hand that reaches out to you and embrace your identity as beloved son of God, with whom He is well pleased. A new life awaits you, one that you may not be able to envision today.

Our fellowship is rooted in the body of Christ embracing the body of Christ. It is a great gift to be in recovery, as few lifestyles offer such genuine opportunities to live under the reign of our Lord. Let us conclude by reflecting on the words of Jesus:

*'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me.'*

- How does being of service to others strengthen your own recovery and spiritual journey?
- How have others in recovery been of service to you in times of need?
- How are you relying on God today?

### **Your Support is Needed!**

*Help individuals and families find hope and healing from addiction by supporting Catholic in Recovery*

- Year-end fundraising campaign to expand meetings and initiate new programs for clergy, college campuses, and prison ministries
- Make a difference for a person or family in need
- Help meet our goal and donate today by visiting: [www.charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/catholic-in-recovery-expansion](http://www.charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/catholic-in-recovery-expansion)

### **Sunday Mass Readings this Week**

**1st Reading:** Ezekial 34:11-12, 15-17

**Responsorial Psalm:** Psalm 23:1-2, 2-3, 5-6

**2nd Reading:** 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28

**Gospel:** Matthew 25:31-46