

Solemnity of Christ the King (Year A)

My Dear Brothers and Sisters, every Sunday we proclaim that Christ: “will come again to judge the living and the dead...” However, we have so often said these words, I wonder if we understand what it is that we are saying that we believe?

We know that our God and Lord Jesus Christ is infinitely merciful, and He is the Divine Icon of God the Father; but in today’s Gospel, Jesus welcomes some in heaven, while others are cast into eternal punishment in hell. How is that infinitely merciful?

The Gospel we have just heard helps us to understand. Jesus, the nobleman, addresses the first crowd by saying: “Come, you who are blessed by my Father!”; however, He also addresses the second group entering eternal punishment by saying: “Depart from me you accursed ones...” What is the difference between the two? The second group purposefully lived their lives in egocentrality and selfishness. They sought only their own happiness, and did not reach out to the poorest of the poor and the most helpless in the society. They could not connect their friendship with God to the self-giving that God is and to which we are called. Jesus, in His teaching has made this very plain: the two fundamental commandments are: “Love God with your whole heart, mind and soul; and love your neighbor as yourself!” Their lives were accursed because they resisted God’s many blessings, they lived their lives in a death spiral, and so, when they appeared before God, they continued in the state of being in which they were already living!

On the other hand, the blessed are completely surprised. They lived their lives in a radical submission to God and self-giving. They emulated the love of God in the way they lived their lives. They lived in God’s mercy, and when they died, they continued in His Divine life as the Blessed!

God is not cruel nor unjust! The accursed made their choice against God and their brothers and sisters in the world. They were already wrapped up in their selfishness. To live in the Infinite light of the Divine Love would have been an infinite torture to them; on the other hand, while not perfect, those who lived in

the love of God, continued to live in His love in its fullness! My beloved brothers and sisters, God did not create Hell, the fallen angels and the accursed who live in hatred, selfishness, egoism and egocentricism, who chose darkness, they created Hell when they began to live this way, because they chose the way of accursedness and darkness and refused the way of the Light and Blessedness.