

From the Desk of Our Pastor

Some Latin for Easter



Easter is our great celebration of Christ as risen King, victor over sin and death, who reigns above at the right hand of the Father, but also here below with us - personally in our hearts, and physically in our midst in our sanctuary. It is instructive for us to think through the resurrection to see the reaction of those Jesus appeared to. Throughout the high drama which we have just experienced, everyone responded to Jesus with deep joy and reverence. When approaching our King Jesus, especially in our sanctuary, we also must come with both great joy and reverence together.

Jesus is today the King of all kings - in a culture where there are no longer kings. Kingship - and all the trimmings and etiquette that go with it - is lost to us. We only experience it now in the movies. So the question naturally arises: how do we approach Jesus? Jesus is not only "King," but the Divine King. This brings us to the Latin phrase, *Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi*. This means the way we pray determines the way we believe. This may seem counter intuitive; one might naturally think nowadays that our faith propels our prayer. Actually, it is the reverse. Let me explain.

Prayer in its fullest Catholic sense demands our whole being, body and soul. This is because we are approaching our Divine King. No one would dream of approaching British royalty informally. Protocol must be maintained or the whole will crumble to the ground. So it is with our King Jesus. In our current culture, there is no proper place to "bend the knee" to anyone in authority, and this extends to God Himself. Informal prayer, whether it be praise and worship in a Protestant Church, or done at home with coffee in one hand and a Bible in the other, shapes our understanding and belief in God. Such prayer suggests that what we do with our bodies has little or nothing to do with prayer, and what is really important is that it creates in our minds a God who is not a king, but a friend that comes up alongside of us. Of course, it is true that Jesus is our friend, but He is so much more.

Dear brothers and sisters, we must all grow in our joy and reverence, especially when approaching our King as a corporate body in worship before our sanctuary at mass. Reverence without Easter joy becomes a show for others to see; Joy with out reverence is superficial. The only way to grow into reverence and joy is to live fully in *Lex Orandi Lex Credendi*. We bring our bodies before the altar and pray not only with our hearts but with a careful genuflection, bowing, crossing of ourselves, reverent receiving of the Holy Eucharist - not gabbing thoughtlessly, not bolting out of church after receiving, etc. Where the body goes, the heart is sure to follow. Have a joyful and reverent Easter, and work on your Latin lines *Lex Orandi Lex Credendi*!

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Pastor