

Fr. Romeo Evangelista Homily
Sunday, November 24, 2024
Christ the King
Cycle B

In Matthew 22:19-21, Jesus asked for a coin and pointed to Caesar's image, saying, "Render to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's." Consider this: If the coin bears Caesar's image, whose image do you bear?

On this Solemnity of Christ the King, we are reminded that our true identity is rooted in the image of God himself. To better understand this feast, we need to go back to the very beginning. God makes the world of stunning beauty and complexity. As the crowning glory of his creation, God makes human beings "According to his image and likeness." Kings and emperors throughout history minted coins bearing their likeness as a reminder of their rule. The coin declared, "You are my subject. You belong to me." But as Christians, our allegiance is not to earthly kings or passing powers. We are stamped with the divine image, "imago Dei," at our creation. This means that our ultimate loyalty belongs to God, not the fleeting rulers or idols of this world.

The feast of Christ the King is a call to rediscover this identity and live it fully. So, what does it mean to live with God's image impressed upon us? It means three things...

1. We are called to reflect God's character. God's image in us is revealed through holiness, love, and truth. When we act with integrity, show compassion,

and serve selflessly, we declare Christ as our King.

2. We called to declare our allegiance to God. Like a minted coin belongs to its ruler, our lives must proclaim Christ's Kingship – that we belong to him. Is he the ruler of our decisions, relationships, and ambitions? Or do we allow other 'kings' – like materialism, pride, or selfish desires – to claim us?

3. We are called to witness to Christ's Kingship. In a world divided by injustice, greed, and indifference, we are called to embody the Kingdom values: of peace, justice, and love. We bear witness to Christ's Kingship by feeding the hungry, comforting the afflicted, and sharing the Good News.

Let us reflect deeply on these questions: Whose image is visible in my life? Do others see the light of Christ in my actions, or do worldly distractions obscure his likeness? True devotion requires surrendering not just our words but our whole being to Christ's Kingship.

As we celebrate Christ the King, let us remember that we are God's creation, stamped with his divine image. In this world, many 'kings' will compete for our loyalty. John Calvin, a Christian writer, described the human heart as an "idol factory." We constantly produce false gods – money, power, relationships, and even self. These idols demand our time and loyalty but leave us empty.

By choosing Christ the King, we dismantle these idols and allow his reign of peace, justice, and love to fill our lives. His Kingship promises not fleeting satisfaction but eternal joy. As we make Christ our King may we live lives that

reflect his truth, love, and justice, bearing his image as faithful witnesses of his Kingdom. Let our lives be the coin that bears the image of the true and eternal King, Christ the Lord.