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Fr. Danny Murphy – Christ the King 2018

Christ the King. What thoughts come into your mind when you hear the word: King.

What images do you associate with that word, King? They are mostly negative, aren't they?

We Americans revolted against having a king rule over us – King George III of England.

And what about King Ludwig of Bavaria – the madman who built all those castles? Herod,

King of Jerusalem, the madmen who killed all those babies. King Henry VIII, with all his

wives and all his chins. King Lear, Henry V, Richard III from Shakespeare and even Elvis the

King of Rock and Roll and Michael Jackson the King of Pop, had their own problems. So,

why would we call Christ – KING? Maybe a little background can help us understand. This

feast was founded by Pope Pius XI in 1925. In 1925, Mussolini was the dictator in Italy, Hitler

was on the rise in Germany, Socialism, Communism, secularism, and atheism were gripping Europe. So in the midst of all that, the Pope wanted to proclaim that Christ is the King – always was and always will be no matter what is going on. He is the Alpha and the Omega. Because Christ is the King, he and I can get through anything together! There are two ways that we can know something. We can know something on the basis of what we've learned or we can know something on the basis of what we've experienced. So, for example, I know that the sun is 93 million miles from earth on the basis of that I've learned. I know how delicious ice cream tastes on the basis of what I have experienced. Do you see the difference? I know that Christ is THE King on the basis of what I've learned. I know Christ is MY king on the basis of what I've experienced. DO you see the difference? Christ is THE King, is Christ MY King? Christ THE King – his kingdom is not of this world, it is from within. Christ is MY King when I know that he lives within me. Christ THE King – the only law in his kingdom is the law of Love. Christ is MY King when I love all others. Christ THE King – he doesn't call his followers his subjects, he calls them his friends. Christ is MY King when I spend time with him, when I trust him totally in everything, because that's what friends do. Christ THE King – he doesn't force, he attracts. Christ is MY King when I come to Mass not because I should, but because I want to. When I pray, not because I should but because I want to. Do you see the difference? Christ is THE King, is Christ MY King?