

November 26, 2023



Photo by Sr. Karin Nürnberg, CSJ, from the Abbey St. Hildegard in Eibingen, Germany

ABOUT THE LEAST AND CHOICES MADE

By Sr. Christine Hilliard, CSJ

Today's Gospel

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.' Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?' And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me.' Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and

you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.' Then they will answer and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?' He will answer them, 'Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.' And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

MATTHEW 25:31-46

Reflection

The feast of Christ the King, the last Sunday of each liturgical year, was instituted by Pope Pius XII in 1929 as a response to society's growing atheism. This feast encourages living out our faith in public. The Gospel chosen for the day presupposes human moral accountability coupled with God taking human action seriously. Being responsible for each other is what generates humanity's partnership with the Creator. It is out of that partnership that all life is nourished. Notably that nourishment happens as the "least ones" are served, not neglected . . . and, incredibly, our God identifies with those "least."



For Pondering

- Who are "the least" you have met recently? How was your life impacted by their presence?
 - Imagine you and God and one of "the least" are having a conversation. What is being said? Is there anything you want to take away from the experience?
 - As you think of yourself, what about you would you call "the least"? What does God have to say to you about your perception of yourself?
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For Prayer

*God of wonders,
You've given me
the most wonderful
of all gifts --
the gift of free will.
May my will never deviate
from your holy will.
Guide me always,
so that all the choices I make
are good ones ---
choices that are
in harmony with your will,
as long as I live.*

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