

Dear Friends,

In these days, as we hear of all the horrific things happening in the world and in our Church, it's hard to see the good. I know that many are struggling and disillusioned by the sexual abuse crisis. This was the focus of the U.S. Bishops' meeting this month in Baltimore. Archbishop Sartain had a few comments coming out of the meetings. "Throughout the meeting, in discussions within small regional groups and among the whole gathering, bishops shared "the understandable deep concern and frustration of our parishioners," Archbishop Sartain said. "It was clear to me that the bishops have a strong and unwavering commitment to address the crisis of sexual abuse, and especially the importance of holding as a priority the healing of victims. We also emphasized the importance of communicating that commitment to our people. In the forefront of our discussion were ways to objectively address accusations brought against bishops, the importance of a complete investigation regarding allegations made against Archbishop McCarrick, and our ongoing commitment to protect children and vulnerable adults." He added, "Bishops also emphasized often that at all times, and especially in crisis, we must continue to proclaim the Gospel and listen attentively to the wisdom of the Holy Spirit. Jesus is always our hope." (*NW Catholic* <http://www.nwcatholic.org/news/national/archbishop-sartain-us-bishops-share-serious-desire-heal-purify-strengthen-church.html>)

In the letter to the Hebrews we hear, "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the proof of things not seen." Commenting on the theological virtue of hope, Pope Benedict XVI wrote, "To come to know God—the true God—means to receive hope. We, who have always lived with the Christian concept of God, and have grown accustomed to it, have almost ceased to notice that we possess the hope that ensues from a real encounter with this God." (Spe Salvi #3) Hope follows from this encounter about which Pope Francis said fills the hearts of individuals with joy. An encounter with the living God in the person of Jesus Christ changes our lives if we let it. It will help us to see things as they are, that everything is under the care and control of our God who loves us and wants to fill our hearts with hope and joy so that we may share it with others.

As we celebrate this Solemnity of Christ the King, let us place our Church, nation, families, and ourselves in the loving hands of Jesus as we consecrate our lives to Him. This consecration is the same one we use every First Friday throughout the year here at St. Anthony and as you make this prayer today, the Church gives us the opportunity to receive a plenary indulgence under the usual conditions (confession, communion, and prayer for the Holy Father's intentions).

*Most Sweet Jesus, Redeemer of the human race, look down upon us humbly prostrate before You. We are Yours, and Yours we wish to be; but to be more surely united with You, behold each one of us freely consecrates himself today to Your Most Sacred Heart. Many indeed have never known You; many, too, despising Your precepts, have rejected You. Have mercy on them all, most merciful Jesus, and draw them to Your Sacred Heart.*

*Be King, O Lord, not only of the faithful who have never forsaken You, but also of the prodigal children who have abandoned You; grant that they may quickly return to their Father's house, lest they die of wretchedness and hunger.*

*Be King of those who are deceived by erroneous opinions, or whom discord keeps aloof, and call them back to the harbor of Truth and the unity of Faith, so that soon there may be but one flock and one Shepherd.*

*Grant, O Lord, to Your Church assurance of freedom and immunity from harm; give tranquility of order to all nations; make the earth resound from pole to pole with one cry: Praise to the Divine Heart that wrought our salvation; to It be glory and honor forever. Amen.*

Sincerely Yours in Christ,



Fr. Jack D. Shrum

**Pastor**