



Dear friends of God,

This weekend we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King. This feast is a reminder that no earthly sovereign, president, king or Caesar is our ultimate leader. I think that this celebration is a gift to the universal Church but has something particularly important to say to us as American Catholics. We can so easily be locked into partisan frenzy. This frenzied, often hateful rhetoric, has moved from civilized debate to a disunited States. This lack of unity has infiltrated the American Church. We have some who speak of being pro-life and forget that we believe in the protecting of life in all its stages from conception to natural death. As Catholics, we believe in the protection of the unborn as well as feeding of the poor and assisting women who are considering abortion to look at the gift of adoption. If we say that we are pro-life, we need to care for the children whose lives we fight to protect. If we don't, we simply become pro-birth and that ignores what we believe about the gift of life. We have allowed politicians to divide us by saying that they are pro-life while they kill people in war, on death row and through poverty when we cut funding for the poor to lower our taxes. Political leaders come and go and none of them is God, even though we might treat them like false gods. Our unity comes from our faith, not from our political allegiance. We need to strive to live in allegiance to Jesus Christ. Our God of Jesus Christ is the God of life. We cannot pick a part of life that we protect. All life is sacred because we are created in God's image and likeness.

Recently, I came across some insightful comments that we need to embrace as Eucharistic people. The Eucharist is a gift for unity and the powerful change agent for the Kingdom of God. The Eucharist is the source and summit of who we are as Catholics and gives us a glimpse of the Kingdom of Heaven that we are called to live in the present moment as we anticipate the Resurrection. "The ballot box divides us, the Communion table unites us." "Every celebrated Eucharist does far more deep down good for the world than any act of congress or executive

order or judicial decision...or election.” When we come to Mass, we come to feast on Word and Sacrament. There is a power in the Eucharistic feast that we celebrate as Christians. We are sent into the world to live lives of justice and peace following the way of Jesus the child of Mary and the child of our God of life.

Soon we will begin our Advent journey. It is a four- week preparation for the coming of the Christ Child at Christmas. When God became human it inaugurated the Rule of God and since that day early leaders of all stripes have trembled with fear and resorted to name calling and violence. Our God only responds with peace. Advent is a time of prayer and almsgiving in a similar way to Lent, but this is forgotten in our addiction to consumerism. I want to encourage us to assist our local Pinconning Area Emergency Food Pantry with this Reverse Advent Calendar. You can simply leave your contributions in the pantry box which is found at the entrance of our church.

- December 1 box of cereal
- December 2 peanut butter
- December 3 stuffing mix
- December 4 boxed potatoes
- December 5 macaroni and cheese
- December 6 canned fruit
- December 7 canned tomatoes
- December 8 canned tuna
- December 9 jar of jelly
- December 10 jar of applesauce
- December 11 hamburger helper
- December 12 chicken broth
- December 13 canned beans
- December 14 box of crackers
- December 15 instant rice
- December 16 package of oatmeal
- December 17 package of pasta
- December 18 spaghetti sauce
- December 19 chicken noodle soup
- December 20 tomato soup
- December 21 canned corn
- December 22 ramen noodles

December 23 canned carrots

December 24 canned green beans

Let us offer care for our Pinconning community as we prepare for the coming of the Christ Child on Christmas. Happy Thanksgiving!

Much love,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "F. Ken" with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.