Christ Our Eternal King and High Priest

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We live in a world where many voices compete for our attention, and many realities compete for our trust. We rely on our plans, our work, our resources, and our own strength. Yet life repeatedly reveals how fragile these securities are. In the midst of uncertainty and change, one essential question remains before every believer: **Who truly reigns in my life?**

The Christian faith gives a clear and enduring answer: **Jesus Christ is our eternal King and High Priest.**

From the beginning, God prepared his people to understand these two sacred offices. In the Old Testament, kings were anointed to govern, and priests were anointed to offer sacrifice and lead worship. These roles were distinct and shared among different people.

In Jesus Christ, these two offices are perfectly united. He is the King who reigns forever and the High Priest who offers the perfect sacrifice for the salvation of the world. He is the Anointed One—not with oil, but with the Holy Spirit. As he declares in the synagogue of Nazareth: *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me."*

Yet Christ's kingship is unlike any kingdom of this world. He does not rule by force, but by love. He does not conquer by domination, but by self-giving. His throne is the Cross; his crown is transformed from suffering into glory through the Resurrection. In him, power is revealed as mercy, and authority as service.

At the same time, Christ is the eternal High Priest. Unlike the priests of the Old Covenant who offered repeated sacrifices, Christ offered himself once for all upon the Cross. Rising from the dead, he now lives forever, interceding for us before the Father. His priesthood does not pass away because his life is without end.

This mystery is made present in every celebration of the Holy Eucharist. At the Holy Mass, Christ is both Priest and Victim. He gathers his Church, proclaims his Word, and offers his one perfect sacrifice to the Father. The Eucharist is not a memory of the past, but the living presence of the Paschal Mystery among us.

For this reason, the Mass must remain the center of Christian life. In a world that often pushes God to the margins, the Eucharist is our source of strength, healing, forgiveness, and communion. There we encounter Christ who nourishes us for the journey of faith and renews us in his grace.

Through Baptism and Confirmation, we are united to Christ's own mission. We become a priestly people, called to offer our lives as a living sacrifice to God. We share in his prophetic mission by witnessing to the Gospel in word and action. And we participate in his kingship by serving others in humility, justice, and charity.

Today, many seek meaning in wealth, success, status, or personal achievement. Yet none of these can satisfy the deepest longing of the human heart. Only Christ can give the peace that endures and the life that does not end.

I invite you, therefore, to take time before the Blessed Sacrament this week and ask the Lord sincerely: **"Jesus Christ, are you truly the King of my heart?"**

Allow him to speak. Allow him to reveal what must be healed, reordered, or surrendered. Where Christ reigns, peace takes root. Where Christ reigns in families, renewal begins. Where Christ reigns in a parish, communion is strengthened. Where Christ reigns in society, hope is reborn.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Heaven and Mother of the Church, lead us ever closer to her Son. And may Jesus Christ, our eternal King and High Priest, reign in our hearts, strengthen our faith, and draw us ever more deeply into the mystery of his Eucharistic presence.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Vilaire Philius
Pastor