Tonight we celebrate an important moment in our liturgical rhythm: the Solemnity of Christ the King. This Sunday is the last of the liturgical year; tonight we begin the transition from Ordinary Time to Advent, which begins next week with the first Sunday of Advent.

More significant than the transition of the church calendar, however, tonight’s feast is an opportunity to reflect on our assumptions of power and authority and to be challenged by the Gospel to live in ways that reflect our belief in a king who radically redefined the concept of “kingship.”

For many Christians, the title “king” is not the first one that comes to mind when we think about Jesus. We may be more familiar with the term “messiah,” which is the Hebrew word for the anointed one. Before Jesus, “messiah” was reserved for kings or other political leaders. Through his life, ministry and teaching – including in the Gospel passage we hear tonight – Jesus reclaimed the term to apply to the one sent by God to care for the poor and marginalized.

Most of us have an implicit understanding that kingship is about control – the ability to force others to do something. In contrast, the Gospel reminds us that true authority is reflected in mercy. Jesus, in the midst of his suffering on the cross, offered forgiveness and mercy to all. Such compassion is at the very heart of God’s kingship. This kingship is also manifested in Jesus’ constant concern for the poor, weak, needy and those on the margins. Like the Central American migrants who have recently arrived to the Mexico/U.S. border, they are the ones most likely to be today’s victims, most likely to be in need of our care and concern. Those of us who seek to live as disciples of Christ are called to live as he did, in solidarity with those who suffer, those longing for compassion.

This understanding of God’s kingship prepares us well for our celebration of Advent. As we enter these four weeks of preparation, we are invited to dedicate time each day to prayer. Even in the busyness of the semester’s final weeks, we are encouraged to make growing closer to God and to reconnecting with Jesus a priority. If we do, we will truly be ready to celebrate, one month from tonight, the fullness of Christmas.
ST. DIDACUS COLLECTION

This week’s St. Didacus collection will be offered to Casa del Migrante, a faith-based, non-profit temporary shelter for migrants in Tijuana. Founded in 1987 and run by the Scalabrini priests, Casa del Migrante assists the most vulnerable migrants who arrive to the city, whether they are deportees, asylum seekers, displaced person, migrants in transit or refugees. The Casa offers basic services including shelter, food and clothing as well as a wider range of complementary services totally free of charge. The Casa is among the organizations striving to offer support and compassion to the thousands of Central American migrants who have recently arrived to Tijuana.

Since its founding, Casa del Migrant has welcomed more than 250,000 migrants from all over the world, mainly from different states in southern Mexico, Central America and South America.

Last week’s collection raised $257.28 for Catholic Charities. Thank you for your generosity.

UM Small Groups

UM Small Groups are student-led faith communities around campus. We come together to build relationships, share in this college journey and explore our faith lives.

The schedule for our residential small groups is available on the back of this bulletin. Please contact us if you have any questions at universityministry@sandiego.edu.

Womxn of Color Summit

On Saturday, December 1st in Salomon Hall, USD will be holding the first ever Womxn of Color (WOC) Summit! This a day-long event (9:30am - 3pm) open to undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and staff. Participants will explore their intersectional identities, connect with others, and learn about resources. This summit is open to anyone in the USD community, but it will prioritize the voices of WOC.

If you would like more information or have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Sam (samanthaobrien@sandiego.edu).

Encuentro Espiritual 2019

“Fe sin Fronteras” February 9th-10th

Applications are open! Held in Tijuana and entirely in Spanish, the retreat is for Latinx students from USD and Pastoral Juvenil of Parroquia San Eugenio. Visit sandiego.edu/ministry to apply. Contact Julia at campagna@sandiego.edu with any questions.

Tijuana Spring Breakthrough

Spend Spring Break, March 1-7, 2019, with other USD students sharing meals, conversations, and fun with different communities in Tijuana! Join us as we grow in our understanding of social justice, compassion, solidarity, and faith. Visit sandiego.edu/tjb to apply. Applications now available and due December 2nd. Contact Aly at amonteleone@sandiego.edu with any questions.

San Diego Immersion Trip

January 14-18, 2019

Applications due: Sunday, December 2nd by 11:59pm

Join us for a powerful week in downtown San Diego where we will build relationships with those experiencing homelessness and reflect on issues of hunger, affordable housing, education and access to healthcare. We stay overnight at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Barrio Logan and spend the days visiting various nonprofit organizations and growing in solidarity with our neighbors. Sign up today for this transformative experience! www.sandiego.edu/sdimmersion Questions? Please contact ainkrott@sandiego.edu or zmoeller@sandiego.edu

Half Time

If you’re a sophomore who enjoys self-reflection and growth, practical skill development, and building relationships with USD alumni, faculty, and staff, then we hope you’ll join us for Half Time! This hybrid experience from January 23-25 is designed to help you make the most of your remaining time at USD. Registration opens Monday, November 19 at sandiego.edu/halftime.

Sponsored by University Ministry, the Career Development Center, Residential Life, and the Mulvaney Center. Contact amonteleone@sandiego.edu with any questions!