



## *Reflection from Fr. Mike Roach & Ben Babaran*

Americans revolted against a royal government but are fascinated by the royal qualities of power, privilege, position, and possessions. These qualities, though seemingly in conflict with the values of Christian life, are the very gifts which Jesus longs to give us if we allow him to be our king.

He gives us power – the power of the Holy Spirit in the sacraments. He gives us privilege – the privilege to be called the Body of Christ, His church. He gives us position - the position that comes with the promise of a permanent place in his kingdom. He grants us the gift of possessions - a relationship with him through which we discover what truly is worth possessing.

The aforementioned qualities give us the confidence to proclaim that the kingdom of God has already come in Jesus Christ. We are asked to be a model, a sign to the world, of the reality of the kingdom of God so that people inside and outside our community might know that God is in our midst.

In response to a Diocesan Area Planning for Deaneries 1, 2 and 11, 60+ parishioners of St. James who all share in the kingship of Jesus came together last Sunday to help shape the future of St. James Church in Midtown KC. The group's consensus is that the community of St. James is a VIBRANT parish, tasked "to build the Reign of God for all people, serving especially our neighbors in Midtown, Kansas City." Rather than using the scoring options given in the preference survey form, the attendees used a consensus process in our small groups and summary report. The Area Planning Committee representatives of St. James together with other representatives from parishes in the deanery have recommended that this process be integrated with the longer listening process of the Synod on Synodality, a two-year process formally opened by Pope Francis.

When we pray in the Lord's Prayer, "thy kingdom come," we are calling for God's power and presence right now in our daily lives and indicating our willingness to be led by Him and be part of his kingdom and to work for its establishment on earth.

Jesus Christ is the King of the Universe! He is king and He commands us to LOVE – to love God and our neighbor.

*~ Peace,  
Fr. Mike & Ben*