

Michael Kelleher – Interim Principal
Saint vs King Reflection
Feast of Saint Edward the Confessor (Observed)
Oct 12, 2018

On this feast of Saint Edward The Confessor, I wanted to speak with you, the students, for just one moment simply to ask one question: One thousand years from now, would you rather be remembered as a King/Queen or as a Saint? King Edward is privileged with being both a King and a Saint. So, I ask again, would you rather be remembered as a King/Queen or a Saint?

Let's think about this King/Queen vs. Saint question for a moment. If we look at what was going on at the time, King Edward was able to become king because of his birth. Meaning, his dad and grandfather were kings. Therefore, he was in line to be a king. Yet, he developed a very deep and profound love for God and Jesus apart from his dad and grandfather. So, over 1000 years ago when there were lots of people debating and discussing what England should do and worrying about invaders, King Edward spent much of his time drawing closer to God and to Christ in prayer and through service to the poor. He even used his power as a king to have a huge church built that we call today, Westminster Abbey. The Catholic Church and Pope Alexander III rewarded him for his faith by canonizing King Edward as Saint Edward the Confessor.

In the end, what would it mean for us if we were to try to become a King or a Queen? I suppose we would have to figure out a way to fight our way to the top. There would be a great deal of strife and likely there would be unhappy people. For example, just look at what is happening in politics today with our recent presidents. Half the people seem to love the recent presidents and half the people seem to really dislike the recent presidents. Is that really what each of us wants for our own life... to be driven by a popularity contest?

Now, think about what it must be like to be a Saint? In some cases, such as martyrdom, it can be very difficult to be a saint, meaning God might call us to really stand up and be courageous for our faith, even if it costs us our lives. For example, this Sunday, Oct 14, Pope Francis will canonize Archbishop Oscar Romero from El Salvador as a martyr because of his courage to defend the poor in his own country. But, in most cases, being a saint means living a life of virtue. If we commit our lives to prayer and to the virtues, we end up sharing in the joy and peace of a life in Christ. And, in the end... true saints don't actually say to themselves, "Oh boy, I hope I become a saint one day." True saints work hard to love God and to love and serve other people to the best of their ability.

And guess what?... The purpose of Saint Edward Epiphany Catholic School is not to train you or prepare you to be a King. The true purpose of Saint Edward Epiphany Catholic School, and any Catholic school for that matter, is to help you become a saint... meaning, to live a life of virtue that seeks holiness. Therefore, my job as principal is to help each of you grow to love Jesus more by helping your teachers and parents become more holy.

Therefore, I'll ask again... would you prefer to be a King/Queen or a Saint? My answer... I'd rather seek to be holy and know that I've served God each day to the best of my ability.