

Fr Ben's Weekly Reflection

Christ The King Sunday

Nov 22, 2026

Groupie or Disciple?

"This year, two movies came out. One was unseen footage from "The King" Elvis Presley's life and shows. The other was a biopic called "Jackson" on "The King of Pop," Michael Jackson that made over $1 billion at the global box office. It goes to show we love our celebrities. These can range from sports stars to politicians, philanthropists, and celebrities. We know so much about them and some people take that to the extreme from buying all the merchandise, stalking celebrities, or doing obnoxious things for their attention. But do they return the favor?

We know they don't. They don't know us and a lot of the public stuff is just for the cameras. Case in point, there is an animated movie called "Megamind" which is a spoof on superhero movies. The Superman-like hero called "Metroman" is greeting the cheering crowds and someone shouts "I love you Metroman!" He replies back "and I love you random citizen!"

Why do we invest so much time, energy, and resources into celebrities, stars, and heroes who don't know us? They care we exist so long as we buy their brand products, but that's about it. We complain maybe about "all those rich millionaire, billionaire, trillionaire CEOs grumble grumble…", but no one seems to bat an eye at the celebrity and athlete bank accounts.

On the flip side, how much time to we take to get to know the true King, Jesus Christ? He is the One famous person who actually does know our name. He does care about us. He does answer our needs like a shepherd tending to the sheep of His flock.

Pope Leo on his trip to South America made a great comment encapsulating Christianity: "everyone toward Christ, everyone with Christ, everyone like Christ." This is what it means to be disciples of Christ the King. Unfortunately, it is easier to be a "groupie" or a fan than it is to be a disciple. If we can name the whole team of the 1973 championship team, can we name the twelve apostles? If we can sing every Taylor Swift song, can we recount Jesus' "greatest hits" and teachings?

This is why we are doing the Discipleship Maker Index. It's not to shame ourselves, but to take a 10-15 minute honest look at how I am doing as a disciple. We have been averaging around 350 people at our weekend Masses so that's the minimum number I'm hoping we get. We have around 600 households in our parish. That's a lot of current and potential disciples in our parish.

If you have not done yours yet, please do it soon. I am asking you directly. If we say Jesus Christ is King, being a disciple is how we live it out.