

**Homily Outline for the Solemnity of Christ the King
LIFE Runners Mass**

**Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
November 19, 2016**

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Bishop of Springfield in Illinois**

S.S.P.: Christ the King is Our Lord and Savior.

- I. We are here with the LIFE Runners for today's ½ Marathon and tomorrow's full Marathon in Philadelphia
 - A. LIFE Runners is an international pro-life running group.
 - B. Almost 5,000 members from all 50 states and 29 countries
 - C. Our motto: All in Christ for Pro-Life!

- II. It is fitting that we are here on the weekend of the Solemnity of Christ the King.
 - A. Pro-abortion or "pro-choice" people (as they like to call themselves) complain about abortion restrictions saying, "It's my body, no one can tell me what to do with my body."
 - B. Actually, that the mistake that underlies their whole position: it is not *their* body; our bodies are not *ours*, they belong to *God!*

- III. The very meaning of "Christ the King" is that *everything* belongs to God!
 - A. Solemnity instituted by Pope Pius XI, Encyclical *Quas Primas*, 1925
 - B. "Christ the King" means that Jesus is our Lord and Savior - it's OK for Catholics to say that!
 - C. "Lord" means that He is Master of all that we have and all that we are.
 1. My body, my money, my vocation, my life - everything - belongs to God.
 2. Celebrating Christmas in prisons: prisoners realize they need God.
 - D. "Savior" means that He came to save us, not Himself: cf. story in today's Gospel of the two thieves crucified with Jesus: "If you are a King, save yourself!"

- IV. Close with LIFE Runners Creed

- V. May God give us this grace. Amen.