

as lay in Our power. *In the Kingdom of Christ*, that is, it seemed to Us that peace could not be more effectually restored nor fixed upon a firmer basis than through the restoration of the Empire of Our Lord. We were led in the meantime to indulge the hope of a brighter future at the sight of a more widespread and keener interest evinced in Christ and his Church, the one Source of Salvation, a sign that men who had formerly spurned the rule of our Redeemer and had exiled themselves from his kingdom were preparing, and even hastening, to return to the duty of obedience.

25. Moreover, the annual and universal celebration of the feast of the Kingship of Christ will draw attention to the evils which anticlericalism has brought upon society in drawing men away from Christ, and will also do much to remedy them. While nations insult the beloved name of our Redeemer by suppressing all mention of it in their conferences and parliaments, we must all the more loudly proclaim his kingly dignity and power, all the more universally affirm his rights.

Indulgence for today:

A partial indulgence is granted to the faithful, who piously recite the Act of Dedication of the Human Race to Jesus Christ King. A plenary indulgence is granted, if it is recite publicly on the feast of our Lord Jesus Christ King.

Act of Dedication of the Human Race to Jesus Christ King (Iesu dulcissime, Redemptor)

Most sweet Jesus, Redeemer of the human race, look down upon us humbly prostrate before you. We are yours, and yours we wish to be; but to be more surely united with you, behold each one of us freely consecrates himself today to your Most Sacred Heart. Many indeed have never known you; many, too, despising your precepts, have rejected you. Have mercy on them all, most merciful Jesus, and draw them to your Sacred Heart. Be King, O Lord, not only of the faithful who have never forsaken you, but also of the prodigal children who have abandoned you; grant that they may quickly return to their Father's house, lest they die of wretchedness and hunger. Be King of those who are deceived by erroneous opinions, or whom discord keeps aloof, and call them back to the harbor of truth and the unity of faith, so that soon there may be but one flock and one Shepherd. Grant, O Lord, to your Church assurance of freedom and immunity from harm; give tranquility of order to all nations; make the earth resound from pole to pole with one cry: Praise to the divine Heart that wrought our salvation; to it be glory and honor for ever. Amen.

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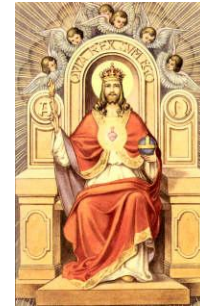
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Pamphlet 573

Solemnity of Christ the King



Today the Church celebrates the final celebration in this liturgical year. Over the past 365 days we have lived the entire liturgical year and celebrated Jesus Christ's life, death, Resurrection, and Ascension into glory. We are now preparing to begin anew with next Sunday - the First Sunday of Advent. So on this last Sunday of this liturgical year, we acknowledge the Kingship of Jesus Christ. For Jesus Christ is not just King of the saints or of Catholics. Jesus Christ is King of all Creation from eternity to eternity. For not only did He create all that exists, He also redeemed all mankind to restore creation to its original glory. He deserves all glory, honor, and praise. As I read frequently in the Liturgy of the Hours: "O Lord our God, you are worthy to receive glory and honor and power" (Revelations 4:11)

Jesus Christ is the King of the Universe, the King of all creation, of all things seen and unseen. Let that thought just sit in your mind. Just take it in and meditate on that

statement - Jesus Christ is the King of the Universe. And even though His dominion is the universe, He cares for each of us with a love inconceivable. This love was displayed on the Cross and it continues to be renewed each and every moment that the bread and wine at Mass become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. As Mother Teresa said, "When you look at the crucifix, you understand how much Jesus loved you. When you look at the Sacred Host you understand how much Jesus loves you now."

And in this Gospel, Jesus Christ, the King of kings, is taken before Pilate. And Pilate does not recognize him. Instead he asks Jesus "Are you the King of the Jews?" And Jesus, who humbled himself even unto death, does not call on the legions of angels ready to help Him. Instead He exclaims, "My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom did belong to this world, my attendants would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not here." I have frequently thought about that verse. No matter how bad life in our current nations and kingdoms gets, I realize that one day I shall enter Jesus Christ's everlasting Kingdom - the kingdom not of this world.

The Israelites, God's chosen people, were given a king over 3,000 years ago. And the Lord warned them that if they were give an earthly king there would be a grave list of problems. But the Israelites demanded one. They didn't just want the Lord God as King, they wanted an earthy one. So Saul was

anointed with holy Chrism oil, and from that day, Israel suffered many problems.

Until at last the King of kings, Jesus Christ, came into the midst of the Jewish leaders. But they didn't know Him. Their very creator was not recognized by them. And so they cried out, "We have no king but Caesar" (John 19:15). What a lie! The Jewish leaders absolutely hated Caesar and the Roman occupation. They despised Caesar. But, they could not carry out an execution without Rome. So they swallow their pride here and exclaimed their king was Caesar. Now it should be clear how much the Jewish leaders hated Christ - they would rather honor Caesar, who they hated. And the Jewish leaders convinced the crowd to join them, and all of them called out "Crucify Him". What pain must have radiated in the heart of Our Savior as His people rejected Him. They subjected their true king, Jesus Christ, to the worst form of execution at that time, reserved for only the most wretched criminals - crucifixion.

And as the King of Glory mounted His Cross with a crown of thorns, He redeemed the world. And as He hung on that tree, two criminals were crucified with Him - one on his right and one on his left. And one them mocked Jesus. But the other one, obviously a man put to death for his grave sins, begged for mercy. He looked at Jesus and said, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom" (Luke 23:42). That thief repented and acknowledged Christ's kingship. And the Lord replies to Him: "Today you will be with Me in Paradise"

(Luke 23:43). Remember the thief had a "death bed" conversion. He couldn't do any "works" throughout his life for Jesus Christ. Instead he could only confess Jesus Christ as King. And that confession was a work in and of itself. Remember the words of St. James: "For just as a Body without a spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead" (James 2:26).

As we prepare to celebrate the new liturgical year, let us remember our place as servants of our Master and King. Let us clean our souls in Confession and receive the Eucharist in joy. May Christ the King reign in all of us. For His dominion is not just of the earth, sky, and cosmos. His dominion is also in our souls.

QUAS PRIMAS – Encyclical of Pope Pius XI on the Feast of Christ the King. Dec. 11, 1925.

In the first Encyclical Letter which We addressed at the beginning of Our Pontificate to the Bishops of the universal Church, We referred to the chief causes of the difficulties under which mankind was laboring. And We remember saying that these manifold evils in the world were due to the fact that the majority of men had thrust Jesus Christ and his holy law out of their lives; that these had no place either in private affairs or in politics: and we said further, that as long as individuals and states refused to submit to the rule of our Savior, there would be no really hopeful prospect of a lasting peace among nations. Men must look for the *peace of Christ in the Kingdom of Christ*; and that We promised to do as far