

Christ the King

This Sunday, at the end of Church's liturgical year, the readings describe the enthronement of the victorious Christ as King in Heaven in all His glory. Instituting this Feast of Christ, the King in 1925, Pope Pius XI proclaimed: "*Pax Christi in regno Christi*" (the peace of Christ in the reign of Christ). This means that we live in the peace of Christ when we surrender our lives to Him every day, accept Him as our God, Savior and King and allow Him to rule our lives. Why Christ is our King: 1) Christ is God, the Creator of the universe and, hence, wields a supreme power over all things; "*All things were created through Him*"; 2) Christ is our Redeemer, He purchased us by His precious Blood, and made us His property and possession; 3) Christ is Head of the Church, "holding in all things the primacy"; 4) God bestowed upon Christ the nations of the world as His special possession and dominion.

We need to assess our commitment to Christ the King today. As we celebrate the Kingship of Christ today, let us remember the truth that Jesus is not our King if we do not listen to, love, serve, and follow where Jesus leads. We belong to Christ's Kingdom only when we try to walk with Christ, when we try to live our lives fully in the spirit of the Gospel, and when that Gospel spirit penetrates every facet of our living. If Christ is really King of my life, Jesus must be King of every part of my life, and I must let Christ reign in all parts of my life. We become Christ the King's subjects when we sincerely respond to Jesus' loving invitation: "*Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart*" (Matthew 11:29). By cultivating in our lives the gentle and humble mind of Christ, we show others that Jesus Christ is in indeed our King and that He is in charge of our lives.

We need to give Jesus control over our lives. Today's Feast of Christ the King reminds us of the great truth that Christ must be in charge of our lives, that we must give Jesus sovereign power over our bodies, our thoughts, our heart, and our will. In every moral decision we face, there's a choice between Christ the King and Barabbas, and the one who seeks to live in Christ's Kingdom is the one who says, "*Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.*" Let us ask ourselves the question, "What does Jesus, my King, want me to do or say in this situation?" Are we praying each day that our King will give us the right words to say to

the people we meet that day, words that will make us true ambassadors of Jesus? Does our home life as well as the way we conduct ourselves with our friends come under the Kingship of Jesus? Or do we try to please ourselves rather than please Jesus?

We need to follow Christ the King's lesson of humble service to the truth. Christ has come to serve and to be of service to others. Hence, we are called to Christ's Own service – service to the Truth. In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus saying, "*For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the Truth*" (John 18:33). The Truth to which Jesus bears witness by His Life and teaches us is that God, His Father, is also our loving and forgiving Father, so we are all His children, forming one Body. Hence, whatever we do for His children, our sisters and brothers, we do for our King. For we are called to be a people who reach out to embrace the enemy and the stranger, a people called to glory in diversity, a people called to offer endless forgiveness, a people called to reach out in compassion to the poor and to the marginalized sectors of our society, a people called to support one another in prayer, a people called to realize that we are called not to be served, but to serve. In other words, servant-leadership is the model that Christ the King has given us. "For the Christian, 'to reign is to serve Him,' particularly when serving 'the poor and the suffering, in whom the Church recognizes the image of her poor and suffering founder'.

We need to obey the law of love of Christ the King. Citizens of Christ's kingdom are expected to observe only one major law—the law of love. "*Love God with your whole heart and love your neighbor as yourself.*" "*If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.*" Jesus expects a higher degree of love from His followers: "*Love one another as I have loved you.*" On this great Feast of Christ the King, let us resolve to give Jesus, our King, the central place in our lives , living the obedient loving, generous service Jesus commands, sharing what we have with all our needy brothers and sisters.