

## SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING - A

**Ez 34:11-12, 15-17; I Cor 15:20-26, 28; Mt 25:31-46**

St. Bonaventure and Blessed Duns Scotus were instrumental in establishing the Feast of Christ the King and extending the celebration to the universal Church. But it was Pope Pius XI who instituted The Feast of Christ the King in 1925 to bring Christ, his rule and Christian values back into lives of people. Although Emperors and kings now exist mostly in history books, we still honor Christ as the King of the Universe by enthroning him in our hearts and allowing him to take control of our lives. This feast challenges us to see Christ the King in everyone, especially those whom our society considers the least important and to treat each such person with love, mercy and compassion as Jesus did.

Pontius Pilate, who first asked Jesus, “Are you the king of the Jews?” (Jn 18:33). Jesus clearly convinced him that He was. We often see engraved on the crosses the letters INRI. They stand for *Jesus Nazarenus Rex Iudaeorum*, means Jesus the Nazarene, King of the Jews.

*A unique King with a unique Kingdom:* Jesus Christ still lives as King in thousands of human hearts all over the world. The cross is his throne and the Sermon on the Mount is his rule of law. His citizens need obey only one law: “*Love others as I have loved you*” (John 15:12). His love is selfless, sacrificial, kind, compassionate, forgiving, and unconditional.

*We need to surrender our lives to Christ’s rule:* Since Christ, our King, lives in our hearts with the Holy Spirit and His Heavenly Father and fills our souls with His grace, we need to learn to live in His Holy Presence, doing His will by sharing His forgiving love with others.

*We need to fight against the enemies of Christ’s Kingdom:* Terrorism has affected the entire world, including Christ’s Kingdom on earth. These terrorists are trying to slaughter the unborn; engage in a frontal attack on the modern family through provocative television shows, movies, music to remove the respect of God from public display and public schools. So, Jesus, the King, needs convinced apostles be prepared and ready to fight against these enemies, first by prayer, then by accepting willingly the sufferings that come on our way and offering them

to God with Jesus, our King, in reparation for our sins and the sins of the world, and finally by living lives of loving, humble service, using our gifts generously for all.

The battlefield is the heart, the home, the school, the place of employment, the neighborhood, and the parish. These provide new and exciting challenges, new opportunities for us to do, what is right and to live out the Truth of Jesus Christ our King, neither compromising with sin nor passing judgment on the motives or guilt of any of our brothers and sisters, but loving and praying for all of us. To ensure that Jesus is always the King of our hearts, we need to make a permanent, total commitment to Him and to live out that commitment with the necessary sacrifices, conviction, hard work and daily, serious prayer.

*We need to use our authority to support the rule of Jesus:* This feast is an invitation to all those who have power or authority in the government, in public offices, in educational institutions and in the family to use it for Jesus. Are we using our God-given authority to serve others with love and compassion as Jesus did? Are we using it to build a more just society rather than to boost our own egos? Are parents using our God-given privilege to bring up their children in Christian ideals and the committed Christian living?

*We need to accept Jesus Christ as the King of love:* Jesus, who came to proclaim to all of us the Good News of God's love and salvation, gave us His new commandment of love: "Love one another as I have loved you," (Jn 13:34), and demonstrated that love by dying for us. We accept Jesus as our King of love when we love others, as Jesus already loves us unconditionally.

The Solemnity of Christ the King is not just the conclusion of the Church year. It is also a summary of our lives as Christians. On this great Feast, let us resolve to give Christ the central place in our lives and to obey His commandment of love by sharing our blessings with all his needy children. Let us conclude the Church year by asking the Lord to help us serve the King of Kings as He presents Himself in those reaching out to us. "Christ conquers! Christ rules! Christ reigns"!

Christ's Kingdom which we celebrate today is "a kingdom of truth and life, a kingdom of holiness and grace, a kingdom of justice, love and peace".