
Christ the King, 2007

*“We give thanks to God the Father ... who hath transferred us
into the kingdom of the Son of His love.”*
(Colossians 1. 12–13)

Pope Pius XI, in instituting today's feast, desired to make solemn proclamation of the social dominion of our Lord Jesus Christ over the whole world. Christ the King of souls and consciences, of intellects and wills, is also King of families and cities, peoples and nations. He is King of the whole universe. As he showed in His Encyclical *Quas Primas* on this matter of so great importance, “secularism, the great evil of our time, is the direct denial of this Kingship of Christ; ... by organizing social life as if God did not exist it leads to the apostasy of the masses and the ruin of society.”



It is important for us to be loyal, faithful and obedient subjects of our King, for, as St Paul tells us, “He is the Head of the Body of the Church, who is the beginning, the first born from the dead, that in all things He may hold the Primacy; because in Him, it has well pleased the Father that all fullness should dwell.”

These words of Sacred Scripture we must take to heart. Do we truly accept Christ the King, as God the Father tells us we must accept Him — or do we have reservations? Do we claim to use our intellect and will in such a way that we do not entirely accept His authority completely, as King of our souls and our consciences; and as a consequence divide our loyalties by accepting authority that is not that established by Him for the guidance of His Church upon earth. To quote *Quas Primas*, “He is said to reign in men's minds, not only because of the power of His mind and the fullness of His knowledge, but also because He is Himself the Truth, and it is necessary for men to draw truth from Him and to receive it obediently that Christ is to be adored as God by angels and men, but also that angels and men are to be obedient and subject to His rule as man, for by the hypostatic union alone Christ possesses power over all created things.” Therefore, we must not allow ourselves to stray in the slightest degree from the course that Christ has set for the governing of His Church. In all things we must be one with Christ — in mind, heart and will.

Pilate was the representative of the Roman Emperor who claimed to be divine; and before Pilate Jesus affirmed that He was indeed a King — but not of a kingdom that was of this world; and remember those striking words of our Saviour, “For this was I born, for this came I into the world, to bear witness to the Truth. And everyone that is of the truth heareth My voice.” Remember that Christ does not merely show us the way to eternal salvation; but He tells us plainly: “I am the way, the truth and the life.”

In this holy Mass, as we move from the Offertory to the beginning of the sacrificial rite, the faithful must be of one mind with the Priest as he prays: “We offer Thee, Lord, the Victim of Man’s reconciliation; grant we pray, that He whom we immolate in our present sacrifice, may Himself give to all nations the gifts of unity and peace.” That unity and peace must be realized in our own souls first of all, this can only happen if we have that oneness with Christ, the Truth and follow Him as the way; and we may obtain this gift only through the Holy Ghost working in our souls.

When our Lord submitted to baptism by John the Baptist in the Jordan, as He prayed the heavens opened and the Holy Ghost descended and remained upon Him. It was then that the voice of the Father was heard saying: “This is My beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased.” And then we are told that Christ was led by the Spirit into the wilderness; there to fast for forty days and forty nights. It was this same Spirit which led Him to Gethsemane; and to the cruel ascent to Calvary where He would be enthroned on the Cross as the King and Saviour of all mankind. And Mary, by the privilege of the Immaculate Conception, the first of the redeemed, followed in His footsteps and took her place beside the Cross — the perfect reflection of her divine Son throughout His sufferings, all the pain and anguish and love during His sacrifice. Now, Christ, as Son of man, “sitteth at the right hand of God,” as our King. We must realize the glorious dignity and exaltation of our heavenly Mother, enthroned as Queen beside Him; it is to her we must make our humble requests for the graces we need in order to be loyal, loving and obedient subjects of her adorable Son.