

Homily of 34th Sunday Christ the King of Year B

The kingship of Jesus is clearly stated in the Scripture:

- The King of kings and Lord of lords (1 Timothy 6:15).
- The ruler of the kings of the earth (Revelation 1:5).
- He is the Lord of lords and King of kings (Revelation 17:14).
- "Then Jesus approached his disciples and said to them, 'All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me'" (Matthew 28:18).

The feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, was established by Pope Pius XI in 1925, not long after the end of the First World War. The pope established the feast as a statement of faith against the prevailing ideologies of communism and secularism at that time. The two ideologies attempted to exclude faith, religion and God from humanity. This feast is even more relevant to us nowadays that we are facing many anti-Christian and anti-Catholic ideologies like secularism, materialism, relativism, anti-clericalism, and persecution of Christians. By celebrating this feast, we are upholding the teachings of the Scripture, the teachings of the Church, and continue to proclaim Jesus as our leader and king.

The crowd that followed Jesus and Jesus' disciples expected Jesus to be an earthly and a political king. In John 6:15, the people went as far as trying to make him king, but he withdrew from them and went to the mountain. In Matthew 20:21, the mother of James and John requested, "Command that these two sons of mine, one sit at your right and the other at your left, in your kingdom." She was thinking of the political kingdom of Israel. Just before Jesus' ascension, his disciples asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" (Acts 1:6). However, in John 18:36, Jesus makes it clear that his kingdom is not of this world.

Where, then, lies the kingship of Jesus?

Jesus has the greatest influence in human history. The world history is divided into two parts, Before Christ (BC) and *Anno Domini* (AD), meaning "in the year of the Lord." The population of Christians is one third of the world population, and Christian religion, culture and civilization have their impression and influence on every part of the world.

Jesus is king because he is the savior of the world (John 4:14). He is the way, the truth and the life (John 14:6). The salvation of the world lies in every word of Jesus in the Gospels.

Jesus rules the universe with the spiritual power that is beyond any other power. From the time of the Apostles until the present, miracles have continued to happen in the name of Jesus. Philippians 2:2 says that the name of Jesus name is the name above every other name.

Anti-Christian and anti-Catholic ideologies and evil forces aim at undermining the kingship of Jesus and prevailing against his kingdom. He promises us that the gate of hell shall not prevail against the kingdom (Matthew 16:18). St. Paul says, "This saying is trustworthy: 'If we have died with him, we shall live with him, if we persevere, we shall reign with him.'"

To reign with Jesus, we are to:

Believe and have faith in him;

Obey his words and imitate him;

Proclaim him as the light, the way, the truth, and the life;

Witness him by our words and actions;

Overcome sin.

It is through our discipleship that that the world continues to see and experience the kingship of Jesus, and that we are kingly people (1 Peter 2:9); whom he bestowed the mandate to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19); whom he gave authority over snakes, scorpions and all powers of the enemy (Luke 10:19); and whom he gave authority to cast out demons and heal the sick (Mark 16:17-18). But if the kingly people become weak, afraid, submissive, confused and lose their mandate and authority, the kingship and the kingdom will suffer violence.

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