

JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

(J.F.M.H. - 3.11.16)

Nearly 600 years before Christ, during the Jewish Exile, the Prophet Daniel wrote about his vision of Christ's kingship. "I saw in the night, visions, ... and behold with the clouds of heaven there came one like the son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed."

The Feast of Christ the king was established in 1925 by Pope Pius XI. Its position in the ecclesiastical year just before Advent sets the stage for the arrival (i.e. Advent) of Christ on Earth. Another Pope, Saint John Paul II meditated on this great Feast as follows: "The Lord reigns." *On the last Sunday of the annual cycle of the liturgy, the Church desires to pronounce this truth in a solemn manner: Christ reigns over the universe, which he created. He is King because He is the Creator. The Church proclaims the work of creation and "through the work of creation", she proclaims "the reign of God" in the world: the Reign of God is. At the same time, the Church prays as Christ taught, "May your reign come."*

*God's kingdom already belongs to our contemporary reality, but even more to the future. In Jesus Christ, God is He who is, who was, but at the same time "He who comes." Through the work of redemption, God's reign over humanity has its past, present and future. It has its history, which develops together with the history of mankind. Jesus Christ is found at the centre of it. He is a "King who loves." He loved us humans to the shedding of His blood. Because He loves us, He has liberated us from sin, because only love is capable of freeing us from sin. By liberating us from sin, He made us the kingdom of God and His reign never fades. The Kingdom of truth, of love, of grace and of pardon knows no sunset. His reign does not pass away and the reign of man does not decline in Him. Only in Him, though living in the world, where truth and love are threatened in various ways, where sin more and more acquires the rite of citizenship, where man may become victim of the horrible energies he has liberated. Let's look now with 'eyes of faith, to Christ's kingdom, and repeat as Christ taught for its completion on earth "**May His reign come**'*

In this month's copy of the 'Magnificat' there is an interesting quote of Pope Benedict XVI for the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, "*Jesus of Nazareth...is so intrinsically 'King' He actually becomes the name. By calling ourselves Christians, we label ourselves as followers of the king... God did not intend Israel to have a kingdom. The kingdom was a result of Israel's rebellion against God... The law was to be Israel's king. And through the law God Himself...God yielded to Israel's obstinacy and so devised a new kind of kingship for them. The King is Jesus; through Him God entered humanity and espoused it to Himself. This is the usual form of the Divine activity in relation to mankind. God does not have a fixed plan that He*

must carry out; on the contrary, He has many different ways of finding man and even of turning man's wrong ways, into right ways ..."the feast of Christ the King is therefore, not a feast of those who are subjected, but a feast of those who know they are in the hands of the one who writes straight on crooked lines."

It was from the fruit of the tree in the Garden of Eden that mankind lost his innocence and had the gate of heaven closed against him. It was from the tree erected on Calvary that Christ opened the gate of heaven once more. The cross became the Royal Standard of Christ our King. Throughout the history of the world one can see how the devil has attacked Christ's kingdom and attacks it still today. It is by carrying the cross that the Church's fight against the devil continues. It is under the sign of the cross that it will fight until the Second Coming of Christ. As members of the mystical body of Christ our part in that fight will be to continue to carry our cross and follow Him. No army ever fought under a more blessed banner, or is more certain of victory. ***"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."***

When Christ instituted the Eucharist He left His body, blood, soul and Divinity with us, so the Church, is no dead corpse, but very much alive with it's living head. The mystical body remains under attack now, and will no doubt remain under attack till the last days, but because it contains God the Son, it most certainly can't be defeated. Pilate had written the notice that was nailed to the top of the Cross "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews", and although the Jews tried to get Pilate to change the meaning by inserting the words 'He Said' before it, refused to alter what he had written. The cross our royal emblem was left proclaiming the kingship of Christ.

Let us pray: **Jesus Christ I acknowledge You King of the Universe. All that has been created has been made for You. Exercise upon me all Your rights. I renew my baptismal promises renouncing Satan and all his works and pomp's. I promise to lead a good Christian life and to do all in my power to procure the triumph of the rights of God and Your Church. Divine Heart of Jesus, I offer You my poor actions in order to obtain that all hearts may acknowledge Your sacred royalty and that thus the reign of Your peace may be established throughout the universe. Amen.**

