

2021 November 21

**Thirty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, CHRIST THE KING**

**Readings:**

**First:** Daniel 7.13-14, "To him was given dominion and glory and kingship." (14a)

**The Psalm:** 93, "Holiness befits your house, O Lord, forever more." (5)

**Second:** Revelation 1.5-8, "To him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen." (6b)

**The Gospel:** John 18.33b-37, "My kingdom is not from this world." (36a)

**Reign of God**

Pilot who represented the powerful Roman emperor in the judgement seat at Jerusalem was face to face with the Emperor of the earth and heaven and all the worlds. Once he came to know that Jesus was a king and had a kingdom, Pilot was really shaken, afraid, and wished if he had nothing to do with this King. However, his craze for power and desire to hold on to it made him blind to his times, and he succumbed to the pressure of the Sanhedrin and handed Jesus over to be crucified.

Pilot could not and did not defeat the King he crucified. From the cross this King came out victorious. His triumphant journey, which began on the day of his resurrection, continues nonstop even to this day. More and more people and soldiers are being added to his retinue. True, many fall out and falter into small time passing glories and perks because his triumphal journey is long, and its glory is not yet at hand. This happens because they fail to know this King and the rules of his kingdom. His weapon is love, which involves suffering and death, laying down one's life in order to regain it. When you lay down your life the only guarantee to regain it is his promise and his victorious resurrection to everlasting life. You come to know of this everlasting life only through faith in this one Lord, "*Who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.*" (Revelation 1.8)

The closer one is to the type of death he endured the glorious will be the crown waiting for his followers. His policy is never to compromise, never be on the middle path or the sidewalk. His path is the highway of love! The fight or divide between the ruler or rulers of the earth and the King of all eternity continues even to this day. The fight is between craze for power, dominion and wealth on the one hand and with love, humility, altruism, and compassion on the other. Satan, the tempter of Jesus in the desert, is still active and around humans on earth with the same false offers of power, riches, dominion, name and fame, and unlimited pleasures at no cost. It is hard to resist this temptation.

Most of those gathered at the court of Pilot on that fateful night did not resist the temptation, and were against the King of eternity. Only a minuscule minority was lurking and hiding in the crowd who were for Jesus and believed in his words. The divide of the crowd even in our day is in the same proportion. This minority continues to win victories even to this day, and that kingdom established from the top of Mount Calvary continues to flourish, while many kingdoms and dynasties of the brute majority have been perishing through the centuries. There is only one kingdom and one King that will remain. The choice is with each of us, to be with this king of eternity or with the powers that are just passing shows. ***Victory to the King of the universe for all eternity!***

Fr. George



Friends,

The book I mentioned last week should be now with Jacky in St. Paul's parish office.  
Anyone interested may get it there.

Fr. George

18<sup>th</sup> November 2021