

One of the classics of French literature is a short story entitled "Le Petit Prince", the Little Prince. In this story a little prince travels the galaxy, visiting different planets, where he meets some very interesting characters.

As the story progresses he announces that he has a secret to share and he says, "Here is my secret, a very simple secret, it is only with the heart that one can see rightly, what is essential is invisible to the eyes"

If you ever study the Gospel of John you would discover that from the word go St. John has a very simple message for us;

Jesus is God

To see Jesus is to see the Father

To experience Jesus is to experience the purest revelation of God.

As Deacon Michael explained last week in his homily this word "Revelation" means to uncover something that is hidden, literally to remove the veil. When it comes to God there is a covering to our minds and hearts that needs to come off before we can see clearly, before we can understand.

When Jesus says, "For this I was born and for this I came into the world to testify to the truth." He is saying that I have come that you may see, that you may know the truth, the you may see God, that you may know God's love.

We celebrate today the feast of "Christ the King"; it is a feast that asks us to see with the eyes of our heart; it asks us to see as God wants us to see.

When Jesus stands before Pontius Pilate, Pilate did not see a king. Pilate was probably asking himself, Jesus if you are a king where are your armies? Where is your domain? Where is your crown? Pilate was not impressed and because he failed to really see he sent Jesus to his death.

During his pontificate Pope John Paul II wrote a lot, encyclicals, exhortations, letters, sermons but he also wrote several books which were mass marketed. The first one was entitled, Crossing the Threshold of Hope and in the chapter on prayer he wrote,

"Through prayer God reveals himself above all as Mercy, that is, Love that goes out to those who are suffering. Love that sustains, uplifts and invites us to trust. The victory of good in the world is united organically with this truth. A person who prays professes such a truth and in a certain sense makes God, who is merciful Love, present in the world.

The Pope tells us that authentic prayer leads us to discover the truth of the Revelation of Jesus Christ. The truth that sovereignty of God, the kingship of Jesus Christ is rooted not in worldly power but in love, a love that uplifts, sustains and trusts; a love that believes in the power of good to conquer evil.

In today's second reading from the Book of Revelation Jesus says, "I am the Alpha and the Omega", the beginning and the end. Now, if we examine our lives closely we realize that not one of us had an influence over the beginning of our lives and not one of us knows exactly what happens when we die. They are outside of our control. Our lives begin in the mystery of God and the end in the mystery of God. But in between God gives us lots of freedom. He lets us control many aspects of our lives. We can respond to his word or freely ignore him.

In the last sentence of today's Gospel, Jesus says, "Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

But it is only with the heart, a heart open to God's revelation that we can hear that voice, that we can see correctly, that we can perceive that truth, the truth that Jesus is truly our sovereign, truly our king.