

FROM FR. CHRIS ALIMAJI'S DESK

Reflections on the Solemnity of Christ the King 2021

The vision of the Prophet Daniel regarding the kingship of the Son of Man opens our eyes to the person of Christ in the Old Testament. **“One like a Son of man”** came on the clouds of heaven, (cf. Dan 7:13 and Rev. 1:7), and he **“received dominion, glory, and kingship; all peoples, nations, and languages serve him”** (Dan 7:13). These are the attributes of a king. We learn right on this passage that **“His dominion is an everlasting dominion;”** and that **“his kingship shall not be destroyed”** (Dan 7:14). I am putting all these for reference’s sake, in case anyone disputes. By this visionary message we have come to know since our earliest faith formation in catechism, that Jesus the Son of Man and the only begotten Son of God, is a king forever and that his kingdom has no end. That is why we profess it in the Creed of our Christian religion. Anyone who does not believe in the Creed of our faith, is not truly a Christian. The marks of our faith are 4: that it is One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic.

We gather in worship because by his death and resurrection, Christ has called us to himself and consecrated us through baptism into a new people of God. By that consecration we have become a priestly people, meaning by that, we are a new kingdom of worshippers offering spiritual sacrifices to God (cf. Rev. 1:5-6). In this new dispensation, every baptized person shares the priestly role as a worshipper to worship God in Spirit and truth, (cf. Jn 4:23-24). This is why we shall all come to Mass to appear before the throne of God and his Christ, at this new mountain of worship.

Pilate heard for himself while judging Christ that he is truly a king. Therefore, he testified: “Then you are a king?” (Jn 18:37). This is because he understood clearly that Jesus has his own kingdom, and has his own subjects. He spoke shoulder to shoulder with Pilate as co-kings, and he found no reason to condemn Christ. The kingdom of Christ does not belong to this world. This is the gospel truth, which the Lord Jesus proclaimed. (cf. Jn 18:36-38). To this, Pilate has nothing to dispute since it does not erode his worldly kingdom. As I indicated in last week’s Reflections, the triumphal entry into Jerusalem by Christ the Son of David prefigured this Feast of Christ the King. Because Christ enthroned by his Father, the Ancient One, is the King of Kings (cf. Dan 7:13), he will pass the Last Judgment on all nations and peoples of the world which he came in to teach and minister to, that he might win us for his God and Father, after our original fall from glory. Hence, he came on mission to the earth for that purpose. Those who believe in him hear his voice, the voice of the Good Shepherd of God (cf. Jn 10:27-30). To Him be glory forever! Amen.