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20 November 2022 + The Solemnity of Christ the King

The Solemnity of Christ the King was established by Pope Pius XI in 1925 and later, after the Second Vatican Council, it was placed close to the Church's liturgical year to remind us that, in the end, it will be the Kingdom of God that will remain, and that the Lord of God's Kingdom is Jesus Christ the Lord. The gospel of Matthew records a whole series of parables told by Jesus to help his disciples identify and understand the Kingdom of God which is partially present in this life, but fully present in heaven.

When we commemorate the Lord's passion and death during Holy Week, we encounter all of those who fail to understand and accept the Kingdom of God. Pilate asks Jesus, "Are you a king?" Jesus answers, "My Kingdom does not belong to this world." This doesn't mean that the Kingdom of God is totally separate from the kingdom of this world; rather, it means that the kingdom of this world will never be possessed, controlled, or manipulated by man. It will never "belong" to this world. This is so comforting because we know all that man does with his power and control over the kingdoms that he rules.

The Kingdom of God is present in this world to the extent that it is welcomed, accepted, and lived. We see it whenever true love of God and neighbor is practiced. We see it when there is true reverence and respect toward God, toward the dignity of life and the human person. When Pope Pius XI established this feast day he wrote: "When once people recognize both in private and in public life that Christ is King, society will at last receive the great blessing of real liberty, well-ordered discipline, peace, and harmony. The result will be a stable peace and tranquility, for there will be no longer any cause of discontent. Peace and harmony will result, for with the spread and universal extent of the Kingdom of Christ, men will become more and more conscious of the link that binds them together."

I think all of us long for this kind of world. I think you will agree that as the powerful in this world reflect less and less on the Kingship of Christ, it almost seems hopeless for this world to be restored to the world spoken of by Pope Pius XI. However, it does not stop the Kingship of Christ from ruling over our personal lives and our families, if we let him. The fruit will be for us and our families, real liberty, peace, and harmony. Let Christ reign in your heart!

Have a blessed Thanksgiving with your family and friends. Let us prepare our hearts for the season of Advent when we once again beg the Lord of life and love to come to us, to be born again in us and in our world!