



Dear Parishioners:

Our first reading today is from Ezekiel's prophecies about the shepherds of Israel and how they failed to deliver the goods of shepherds. The Lord God proclaims, "I myself will come to shepherd my people." I do not envy those whose place he is taking. Of course, the one to come is now known as Jesus, the Christ, the Anointed one, the King.

This feast of Christ the King is rather new to our liturgical calendar. Pope Pius XI in his letter, *Quas Primas*, establishing the feast, wrote, "*And We remember saying that these manifold evils in the world were due to the fact that the majority of men had thrust Jesus Christ and his holy law out of their lives; that these had no place either in private affairs or in politics: and we said further, that as long as individuals and states refused to submit to the rule of our Savior, there would be no really hopeful prospect of a lasting peace among nations*" (*Quas Primas* 1, 1925).

The Bolsheviks took over Russia less than a decade before this encyclical. Since then somewhere over 100 million people have died because of communism. It is estimated that during the rule of Lenin and Stalin over multiple decades, up to fifty million people were killed in the gulags and pogroms. Secularistic governments and policies have removed reliance on God on laws that were honored for millenniums, and I am not sure we are the better off for it. Once we remove God, everything is permissible (Dostoevsky).

Pope Pius XI is reminding us of the ultimate authority of Jesus, God who is creator, redeemer, judge and love. Every day we pray the words of Jesus, "Thy kingdom come," as part of his great prayer. Fr. Douglas Pankhurst, reflecting on this kingdom, writes:

From what Jesus said about His Father's kingdom, some interesting facts emerge:

1. It is an eternal Kingdom. It existed in THE PAST. Jesus warned the Pharisees: "There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the Kingdom of God and you yourselves cast out." [LK 13:28]
2. It exists in THE PRESENT. He said: "The Kingdom of God is among you."
3. It exists in THE FUTURE. The good thief said: "Remember me when you come into your kingdom." [LK 23:42]
4. It is a universal kingdom; not territorial or national, but worldwide. Jesus said: "And people will come from the east and the west and from the north and the south and will recline at table in the kingdom of God. ." [LK 13:29]
5. It certainly is not a political kingdom. Jesus said to Pilate: "My kingdom does not belong to this world." [Jn. 18:36]
6. It is a hidden kingdom. Jesus said: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed with three measures of wheat flour until the whole batch was leavened." [MT. 13:33] The Vatican Council puts it this way: "The Kingdom of God is already present in mystery. When the Lord appears, it will be brought to full flower. Then Christ will hand over to the Father a kingdom eternal and universal, a kingdom of truth and life, of holiness and grace, of justice, love and peace." [Ch. In Mod. World, #39] (full article at [www.CatholicEducation.org](http://www.CatholicEducation.org) search author's name)

Let's take some time this week to examine how we use our time, talent and treasures for the sake of the Kingdom of God. Have I placed all matter under his rule of love and justice? Now, many of us do not like rules [except when they run in our favor] because we want to do things our own way. God's rule, however, is set up to give you and me the greatest possible freedom for love and joy.

Our King knows that love and joy are NOT babbles that fall off a tree, but planned, deliberate, results from actions taken to place our Father's kingdom first, before all else and others. Christ the King rules not because he seeks power, but because he loves infinitely, for all infinity with infinite intensity. That is the kind of King who deserves to be loved with all our mind, soul, heart and strength.

When we love Love like this, we can want nothing else than to be His subjects — Viva Christo Rey!

God bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Msgr. Bill".

Msgr. William L. Young, III | Pastor