

SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING-CYCLE A-NOVEMBER 23,2008

Today's celebration of the Solemnity of Christ the King is really quite new, established by Pope Pius XI in 1925, but what it celebrates is as old as the Catholic faith itself. The word *Christ* is, in fact, simply the Greek translation of the word *Messiah*: the Anointed One, the King. Jesus, the crucified Son of Mary, is so intrinsically a King that the title *king* has become a part of His very Name!

We recognize Jesus as our King. Easy enough to say. Today's Solemnity calls us to recognize and acclaim Jesus as our King, not just in our minds but also in our actions and behaviors!

The Church has been pointing us to this Solemnity of Christ the King for several weeks now. She has been reminding us that there will be a time when we all must appear before our King.

Last week we were reminded in the parable of the talents of the expectation that we be good, faithful stewards of our faith and graces. Now today, we are reminded that Christ will judge how well we did.

Our Lord Jesus was and is the King Who committed Himself to serve, to suffer, to die for His Bride, the Church. Now it is our loyalty, our pledge of allegiance you might say, to our King that is important to judge. He asks us to show our loyalty for Him by showing our willingness to serve others; by our willingness to share our faith and bring others into His Church.

This, then, is Christ's Kingship....a love that is undeniable with charity. For us, Christ's Kingship means that we must have unshakeable confidence in His love.

The pattern we experience in Christ's love should be the pattern of our lives; to reach out again and again with an open heart. Our most important task is to follow the path that our King lays out before us.

The celebration of Christ the King is not, therefore, a burden for those who are under the weight of an earthly tyrant king. But, a time of joy for those who are grateful to be under the guidance and rule of Jesus Christ!

Our Father has sent His Son to be our King. But even He can't be our King if we don't allow Him! Come, let us adore Him!