

Solemnity of Christ the King

Feast of Christ The King

November 25, 2018

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Today is the last Sunday of the liturgical year. We celebrate the universal rule of Christ the King, though not a king in the worldly sense of the word.

In Jesus' time Pilate was the representative of Caesar, the most powerful ruler in the world. Greater than Christ, but in the Book of Revelation we read that Christ is the ruler of the kings of the earth. He is the ALPHA and the OMEGA, the one who is and who was and who is to come.

The Psalmist describes him as "robed in majesty, seated on a throne that stands firm for all time." In the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola, there is a meditation entitled:

CHRIST THE KING AND HIS CALL

In this meditation we are asked first to imagine a great human leader, man or woman. This leader wants to make the world a better place by promoting peace and justice. He or she sends out an invitation to join in this endeavor. How might I respond? In the second part of the meditation, we consider Christ and his desires for the world. He makes the following appeal:

"It is my will to win over the whole world, to conquer sin, hatred, and death, all the enemies between humankind and God. Whoever wishes to join me in this mission must be willing to labor with me, so that by following me in suffering they may follow me in glory."

With God inviting and victory assured the prophet Daniel said, "His dominion is an everlasting dominion; his kingship shall not be destroyed."

Ignatius asked: "How can anyone of right mind not give him or herself over to Jesus and his work?" I was so inspired by this meditation it sealed my vocation.

Miguel Pro, a Mexican born in Guadalupe de Zacatecas in 1891, took this meditation on "Christ the King" very seriously. Miguel joined the Jesuits at the

age of 20, but with the political upheaval and growing anti-Catholicism in Mexico at that time he left his homeland with other Jesuit students to continue his studies.

When Miguel returned 12 years later Catholic priests were hunted as criminals, and Miguel was arrested on November 18, 1927 for setting up Communion Stations in various sections of Mexico City to serve in secret the faithful who gathered weekly.

On the morning of November 23rd, he was led out into the prison yard. With his crucifix in his right hand, his rosary in his left, he refused the blindfold. Looking at the rifles of the firing squad pointing at him he stretched out his arms in the form of a cross.

His last words before dying were, **"VIVA CRISTO REY!!!"**

LONG LIVE CHRIST THE KING!!!

He was 36 years old.

As we conclude this liturgical year, let us give thanks to God for the gift of His Son and the redemption He brought. And let us re-commit ourselves to Christ the King by praying the following prayer by St. Ignatius:

Lord, teach me to be generous.
Teach me to serve you as you deserve;
To give and not to count the cost,
To fight and not to heed the wounds,
To toil and not to seek for rest,
To labor and not to ask for reward,
Save that of knowing that I do your will.

In the name of Jesus, Through the power of the Holy Spirit, We pray, Lord God that You inflame our hearts with courage and trust and the desire to labor for your Kingdom.

Amen.