

# WORD FROM THE PASTOR

## A ROYALTY AND A MYSTERY



Today is the Feast of Christ the King of the Universe. This feast reminds us of Jesus' "Epiphany" which comes from a Greek word meaning "Manifestation", "Revelation". So today we celebrate the elevation and manifestation or revelation of Christ the light and king of the whole universe. Today is the last Sunday of the liturgical year. On this day, we celebrate Christ the King of the universe. We will begin a new liturgical year with the time of Advent.

The texts proposed for our meditation today will allow us to enter more deeply into this mystery of the royalty of Jesus that He does not deny when He answers Pilate: "It is you yourself who say that I am king". Jesus leaves Pilate to his perceptions but He takes the opportunity to give the right time on what the mystery of His royalty is.

Many from the beginning and until now are inclined to use violence to exert their power over their people. They are more attracted by prestige and self-grandiosity than by attention to the poorest. We must forget all these kings, these leaders, and these presidents. The royalty of The One we honor today is not of this world. I have just referred to the royalty of Christ as a Mystery. This is not without reason. Indeed, it propels us into another register than that of human royalty. "My royalty is not from here." That is the mystery. In making this statement, Jesus is well aware that He is the Bearer of a tradition that has its roots in the Covenant of God with the people of Israel, to whom He gave a king in the person of David, then Solomon followed by many others. Let us remember that the recognition of the mystery of the Kingship of Christ has, as its primary goal to affirm that we have entered, following Jesus, into a new world; a kingdom that is eternal and that is not of this world that we see.

First, we need to recognize and live the Mystery of the Kingship of Christ by affirming the priority of what is spiritual and invisible to the eyes in the life of the Christian Faith. The Kingdom of Christ has no guards or soldiers to defend or protect itself. It is a Spiritual Kingdom that is established in the hearts of people first and foremost. Second, the feast of Christ the King of the Universe invites us to keep alive in our spirit the attraction that He exerts on all humanity. It is a kingdom that has no limits. Thirdly, the feast of Christ the King of the Universe also invites us to proclaim this Mystery without pusillanimity, with humility of course, but with pride. Because it is a mystery that puts things in their place, that displays the supremacy of Christ over all beings as Saint Paul often repeated:

*"He is the image of the Invisible God," he writes, "the Firstborn, before all creation: in Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth. Visible and invisible beings, Powers, Principalities, Dominions, all things are created by Him and for Him. He is before all things, and all things hold together in Him. (Colossians 1:15-17 cf. also Hebrews 2:8-9). To conclude, my dear brothers and sisters, there you have it! The Kingdom of Christ is spiritual, open to all and above all beings.*

**Very Rev. Fr. Lucien Eugene Pierre Ph.D., Pastor, VF – November 24, 2024**