

# LITURGY BYTES

## Christ the King

This weekend the Church celebrates the feast of Christ the King and the end of the Liturgical year. This feast is fairly new to the Church calendar as it was established in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The feast is designed to give special recognition to Christ, Our Lord.



Pope Pius XI instituted the feast in 1925 with his encyclical entitled *Quas Primas* (In the First), to respond to growing secularism and atheism. In that encyclical, the Pope noted that the continuing disorder of that era had long been festering and was the result of nations rejecting Christ. This solemnity reminds us that while governments come and go, Christ reigns as king forever.

Later on, in 1969 Pope Paul VI took some steps to enhance the witness of the feast day. He changed the name of the celebration to the feast of “Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of All.” He also changed the date to the last Sunday in the liturgical year, emphasizing even more strongly the connection between Christ’s kingship and His second coming. He also raised the feast to the highest rank of celebration on the Church calendar, that of a “solemnity.”

For Christians, when our faith is repeatedly marginalized in public life, we can fall into the habit of compartmentalizing our lives. We love Jesus in our private lives, but we shrink from acknowledging the kingship of Christ in social life. When we celebrate the solemnity of Christ the King, we declare to the world and to ourselves that Jesus is the Lord of the Church and the entire universe.

Have a blessed, and Christ-like week ahead! ~ *Michele Hall*