



CELEBRATING CHRIST THE KING

LITURGY BYTES *by Michele Hall*



This weekend we reach the end of the Liturgical Year with the feast of Christ the King. This feast day was established by Pope Pius XI in 1925. As a response to the rise of secularization, atheism, and communism in the world and to publicly acknowledge the supremacy of Jesus Christ over all people and nations, Pope Pius XI issued the encyclical *Quas Primas*. This encyclical added the feast of "Our Lord Jesus Christ the King" to the Church liturgical calendar. It designated the feast to be celebrated on the last Sunday of October. However, in 1969, Pope Paul VI further enhanced this feast. To emphasize Christ's universal reign, he changed the feast day name to "Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe." He also changed the feast date to the last Sunday in the liturgical year, emphasizing even more strongly the connection between Christ's kingship and His second advent (coming) to judge the world.

In our parish, each year on this feast, we re-commission those in our community who serve in the liturgical ministries of Lector, Eucharistic Minister, Usher, Musician, Altar Server, and Sacristan. A simple prayer of blessing is done at each Mass with those in attendance who serve in the above-mentioned ministries. Today, I close with the ***Servant's Reward***, words many good people are able to relate to in all they do for our parish.

One day, when you are in heaven, someone will come up to you and thank you for the way you touched their life with hope and encouragement. The person's words will take you by surprise. Soon another person will seek you out, and then another and another. As you listen to each one's story, you will begin to discover all the ways that God used your life when you were completely unaware of it. You will find that it was not only through the big things you did but also through the small things—through a spoken word that was not planned, a spontaneous act of kindness, a loving attitude, or a simple prayer of concern. To your joy, you will discover that in all these ways and more, God used you to deposit an eternal measure of His love into many needy hearts.

Have a blessed, prayerful, and healthy week ahead!