

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

“CHRIST: THE JUDGE OF INDIVIDUALS AND NATIONS”

The Feast of Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, which we celebrate on the final Sunday the liturgical year, reminds us of an article of our Creed: “[Christ] will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.”

Pope Benedict XVI said the following about this feast day:

“In this final Sunday of the liturgical year, the Church invites us to celebrate the Lord Jesus as King of the Universe. She calls us to look to the future, or more properly into the depths, to the ultimate goal of history, which will be the definitive and eternal kingdom of Christ. He was with the Father in the beginning, when the world was created, and he will fully manifest his lordship at the end of time, when he will judge all mankind.”ⁱ

I wish to emphasize two things in relation to this feast:

(1) Personal Allegiance to Christ. Each and every person - not just Christians - but every person is obliged to give his allegiance to Christ the King, who is both our Creator and Redeemer.

Each one of us will have to present ourselves to Christ the King, and give answer to what we have done during our time on earth, as pointed out Matthew’s presentation of the Last Judgment:

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.” ... “Whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me.”

At the end of time, at the Last Judgment, or “Parousia,” all that we did here in this life, and all the consequences of our actions, will be made manifest to the whole of creation.

(2) The Social Reign of Christ the King. Not only individuals, but all nations, must recognize the sovereignty of Christ. We see evidence of this in today’s Gospel of the Last Judgment:

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him.”

In fact, anyone in a position of civil authority must see that his or her authority is simply a participation in the ultimate authority of Christ the King. A civil ruler is meant to represent Christ, who

Today we are mindful of the Social Kingship of Christ: His right to rule over societies as well as individuals. For lasting peace and justice in the world, every person must turn to Christ and every nation must submit itself to the sovereignty of Christ the King.

ⁱ Homily by Pope Benedict XVI, November 25, 2013, found at <http://www.news.va/en/news/pope-benedict-celebrates-mass-for-the-feast-of-chr>