

**SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING (C)  
HE HAS TRANSFERRED US TO THE KINGDOM OF HIS  
BELOVED SON**

We celebrate the solemnity of the kingship of Christ, as the King of the universe. He sits on the throne of His ancestor David. David was anointed king in Hebron. He ruled seven years in Hebron and thirty-three more in Jerusalem, unifying all the tribes of Israel. Mary was told, "Look! You are to conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you must name Him Jesus. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His ancestor David; He will rule the House of Jacob forever, and His reign will have no end," (Lk. 1:31-33).

Jesus was not proclaimed king when He sat on a throne, but when He was nailed to the cross. "Pilate wrote out a notice and had it fixed on the cross; 'Jesus the Nazarene, King of the Jews'", (Jn. 19:19). The 'good' thief on the cross recognized the kingship of Jesus and said "Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom" (Lk.23:42).

Earthly kingship is associated with sitting on a throne, crowns on the head, scepters in hand, exercising authority, show of power, and dispensing justice. One felt safe and cared for when a good king ruled. The nature of the earthly king was described to the Israelites by God when they asked for a king for the first time. (1Sam. 8:11-18).

But the kingship of Jesus is totally different from the earthly kingship. His kingdom has no end; 'He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For in Him were created all things in heaven and on earth, the visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers; and all things were created through Him and for Him; and in Him all things together. His kingdom is a kingdom of love, peace and justice. Jesus is a king who does not condemn and discriminate. His kingdom is for all. As a king, He came to serve and not to be served.

As we celebrate this feast we are reminded of what we have become through the kingship of Christ. Through our baptism, we have become heirs to the kingdom. God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and

transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. We are no more slaves of sin. We have become special people with special dignity.

Do you know that you are wonderfully made, and redeemed with the precious blood of the King of kings and Lord of lords? Do you cherish your status or dignity as a Christian? Do you feel proud to be part of the kingdom of Christ? No, because we do not know how important we are as Christians. We do not know the treasure we have. For some of us being a Catholic Christian is just to be identified with the group called Christians and not to be part of the kingdom. Maybe we are not aware of who we are, "you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of His own, so that you may announce the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light. Once you were 'no people' but now you are God's people; you had 'not received mercy' but now you have received mercy," 1Pet.2:10).

Do we accept Jesus as the king of our lives? The thief recognized Him as such and when he expressed it, he gained salvation. If we accept Him as our king then how are we to live our lives? A royal lives a dignified life. He tries to be impeccable, and lives a good exemplary life. He is a role model and a mentor. As heirs to the kingdom of Christ, we are to promote peace and love. Are we conscious of that?

It is time to surrender ourselves to Jesus to rule over us and do away with the many material things and pleasures which have become lords of our lives. It is time we think like the good thief and have the desire to be in Christ's kingdom.