

FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING (11/21-22/2009)

Daniel 7/13-14, Psalm 93, Revelation 1/5-8, John 18/33-37

It's been forty six years since the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.
For those of you under 50 years of age, the tragedy is just one more incident in our past history.
One more fact, one more calamity, one more historical milestone.
But for many of us older folks, the impact of that day is imprinted indelibly on our souls.
We may still feel the sadness, frustration, anger, futility that were in the air on that fateful weekend.
The events following the killing, the funeral, the cortege, the riderless horse with the boots turned
backward, the burial in Arlington Cemetery are vivid in our recollections.

Someone once dubbed the Kennedy family "America's royalty".
In the light of the recent death of Senator Ted Kennedy, those same people are saying the Kennedy
dynasty is finished.
All dynasties eventually come to an end, and the Kennedys are no exception.
All dynasties, that is, except for the rule of Jesus Christ the King.
He goes on forever.

Christ's rule survives and flourishes despite the efforts of many to limit his reign to past history.
A recent article in *America* magazine proclaimed that God is back, back in the consciousness of a
growing number of people, back in the sense that Christianity, and specifically, American
Christianity, is alive and well and flourishing.
Another recent report told how Catholic attendance at regular weekend liturgies has fallen off
precipitously.
Which report are we to believe? Perhaps both!

While fewer Catholics practice their faith these days, those that do seem more deeply involved in the
ministry of the church than ever before.
Despite the scandals that have eroded the confidence of many, Church life, and particularly parish life,
is strong and persistent.
I'm not being Pollyannaish here; I can see it at the parish where I help out on weekends.
Sure, there are problems, some of them monumental.
But underneath the surface, you can feel the power of Jesus Christ, the King.
It's a spiritual presence which was promised us 2000 years ago, and which still holds sway in the
Catholic Church at this moment of history.

Dynasties rise and fall throughout history.
But the reign of God, exemplified and modeled by Christ himself, goes on forever.
The words of Jesus to Pilate on the last day of his life still resound: "*You say I am a king. For this I was
born, and for this I came into the world to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth
listens to my voice.*"
We are listening, Lord Jesus, our King.