Feast of Christ the King — November 26, 2023

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

This Sunday's feast proclaims Christ as our King. But we must ask, how can he be king for us in a land that knows no king, no queen, in a nation founded in a revolutionary war against a distant and unjust monarch? How can Christ be king for us when our only experience of royalty is the folklore of Camelot and the weddings of Westminster?

Certainly, in ages past, when monarchs ruled the West and claimed the right to do so by divine will, the notion of Christ as king could strike a responsive chord in the hearts of men and women. But who among us today would entrust our lives, our love, our trust, our very hope against death to a god clothed in the heavy mantle of an ancient monarch?

How can he reign for us, be king for us? Indeed, how is it that Christ truly reigns in the midst of a vast world in which so many do not know nor even care to speak his name.

Some would suggest that we simply translate the meaning of monarchy into the language of the modern world, and there we will find the way to worship him as our king. But if we do so, Christ only becomes the absolute power who demands our begrudging obedience, the judge before whom there is no appeal, the political leader whose term of office limits the good to be accomplished, the schemes to be hidden. It seems that nether Camelot nor Congress will do.

The biblical word, however, offers us another vision of majesty and power, a word and a vision so out of character with modern notion of "leadership" and "charisma" that it begs a hearing. "The lost I will seek out," says God our Shepherd, "the strayed I will bring back, the injured I will bind up, the sick I will heal." Against all our images of stern authority and capricious power, we hear the Lord's voice, the voice of the shepherd who tends the scattered sheep of the flock. We hear the voice of the one who judges us, not by our strength nor our cleverness nor our ability to keep the laws of the land, but by the depth of our need. And so the words of the psalm roll off our lips, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want."

If we look for him today, if we seek to worship this shepherd, we shall not discover him clothed in the garments of unbridled power which demand our attention and our respect. We shall discover him within and without where he robes himself in our frailty, in our flesh, in the rhythms of conflict and peace, of pain and pleasure which move through human life.

And yet, at last, he reigns among us in our meal of thanksgiving. The judge of the universe, coming in glory escorted by all the angels of heaven, sitting on his royal throne, has become for us the derelict of the cross, the lamb of sacrifice, the wounded king.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**November 28**	**11:00AM**
Thanksgiving		Ed & Mae
Wed.	**November 29**	**11:00AM**
Mark Anthony Castañas †		Marcella de Leon
Thur.	**November 30**	**11:00AM**
Federico A. Marco, Jr. †		Peña Family
Fri.	**December 1**	**11:00AM**
Jorgelia B. Quiapo †		Ed & Mae
Sat.	**December 2**	**4:30PM**
Steve & Teddy †		Family
Sun.	**December 3**	**9:00AM**
Cristina Alday		Lacsina Family
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of the Parish		

† †††††††