



## Essential Evangelization

### The KING

The KING! Does that word solicit images of dictators, rock stars or sports heroes? Or do we ever think of Jesus as the King? He is not the “oppressive” ruler that some may associate and perceive with that role of ruler. In contrast, He is the One who can set us free!

Today we celebrate a feast of the highest rank, or Solemnity, in our Roman Catholic liturgical year, Christ the King Sunday. Last but not least, this feast ends the liturgical year and Ordinary Time. Pope Pius XI instituted the Feast of Christ the King in 1925. He instituted the Solemnity in his encyclical, *Quas Primas*, as a rebuttal to the rise of secularism, and at a time when many Christians, even Catholics, doubted the primacy and authority of Christ in the Church. At that time, the world witnessed the rise of dictatorships and some were taken in by the attractive leadership and power, and some unfortunately lost respect for their Church in the process. In 1969, Pope Paul VI elevated this celebration to a new level, naming it: “*D. N. Iesu Christi universorum Regis*,” or Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. Even our other Christian brothers and sisters: Anglican, Episcopal, Evangelical, Lutheran, Methodist and Presbyterians also celebrate this feast, also known as the Reign of Christ Sunday.

In our chaotic and sometimes unjust world, we may scorn and disrespect the leaders and "Kings" of our day as part of the cause of all of our economic and social problems. There is a general disrespect for authority. Even children have lost respect for the leadership of their parents. They have picked up on the Hollywood sitcoms where the moms and dads are the buffoons of the family, and the kids are somehow smarter and wiser. But authentic Christians know who leads their heart. They know the Truth. Jesus, the Lord of the infinite universe, is also the Lord of their lives. Is Jesus the King of your universe?

*“So Pilate said to him, “Then you are a king?” Jesus answered, “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.”*  
John 18: 37

This is one of a series of articles  
on Evangelization from the  
Evangelization Committee