

Father Albert Shamon

A Word for Sunday



Sunday's Reading: (R3) Luke 23:35-43; (R1) 2 Samuel 5:1-3; (R2) Colossians 1:12-20.

Sunday is the Feast of Christ the King. What do we know about kings?

Our experience with mad King George was, if anything, unsavory: taxing tea, demanding taxation without representation. Elizabeth II of England is charming, but miles away from the *hoi polloi*. With the exception of King David, most of the kings of Israel became false shepherds.

"You are a King?" Pilate asked.

"My kingdom is not of this world," Jesus answered.

Of course it could not be, for what king ever used a cross for a throne? What king would say, "The reason I came into the world is to testify to the truth?" What king ever died to save the entire world?

The gospel for the Feast is from the crucifixion. Do you know why?

It is to teach us that He is king in a world to come. That is why His work here and now is one of saving. In the crucifixion gospel, the word "save" is used four times. The leaders jeered and said, "He saved others; let him save himself!" The soldiers mocked, "King of the Jews, save yourself!" The criminal blasphemed, "If you are the Messiah, save yourself and us!"

He had no need to save Himself, for He was innocent. He is Jesus, which means savior. He saves others—those who turn to Him and confess the truth.

Everybody around the cross declared Him guilty and themselves innocent; only a criminal confessed himself to be guilty and insisted Jesus was innocent. Not once, not twice, but repeatedly, the criminal pleaded, "Remember me when you enter upon your reign."

And regally, authoritatively, Jesus promised, "This day you will be with me in paradise." So He is a king, a king of the world to come. A king come to testify to the truth.

St. Paul in his letter to the Colossians explains why He is king (R2). The Colossians were being poisoned by the teachings of some who taught that angelic spirits existed who, as persons inbetween

God and the world, were superior to Christ.

Paul bristled and thundered that Jesus alone is Lord and king of all creation, for He existed before all creation—even the angels. In fact, He created them and everything else.

Jesus therefore, is the head, the king. And the only body on earth worth bothering about is not a body of so-called angelic spirits, but the body of which He is the head, the Church.

A further basis for His kingship is that He is the savior of all creation. He reconciled everything—"making peace through the blood of the cross."

The result? As all Israel came to David asking him to be their king, so all should come to Christ to ask Him to reign over all. For He is our bone and flesh. He is the one who has conquered our enemies—not the Philistines, but the spirits of wickedness in the high places. He is the shepherd of all peoples—Son of King David, indeed, but also Son of God!

One of the saddest things in the Church today, here in America, is to read of the hostility against the Vicar of Christ the King on earth—the pope.

On Oct. 10-12, a conference of women was held in Washington, D.C., sponsored by Time Consultants. About 2,400 women attended, 80 percent of them sisters. The venom, there, the Church-bashing, the pope-bashing, brought to mind the rabble that cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him! We have no king, but satanic pride"—pride that had for its theme whether feminists can continue to tolerate Rome within the framework of the "institutional" Church—as though the Church were just some institution, like the United Nations, and not the mystical body of Christ, "who is the head of the body, His Church."

On this feast, we used to make an act of reparation for the nations that rejected the kingship of Christ. I think on this feast an act of reparation is in order for the scandals of those within the Church, rejecting Christ the king in the person of His vicar on earth.

Father Paul J. Cuddy

On the Right Side



Notes on Ireland tour

Money: At the present rate of exchange, the American dollar hovers at about 70 cents to the dollar. We sympathize with the Canadians whose dollar is worth only 72 cents in the States. But this did not deter many from buying quantities of goods in Ireland. Since we were the last of the 1986 tours, many places gave good discount to cut inventory before the winter. At the last minute, one woman bought a beautiful tweed coat for about \$200 at the Great Southern Hotel, Killarney. That will be the highlight of the tour for her. To observe women shopping on tours is to see the eighth wonder of the world.

Hotels and food: You get what you pay for. Our tour package was \$1,795, which included air passage on an Aer Lingus 747 and the flight from Rochester to JFK. It included first-class hotels, Irish breakfast and evening dinner. A bus was chartered exclusively for the 33 of us. The meals were super. Irish breakfast consisted of juice, porridge or dry cereal, bacon, eggs, sausage (whether you wanted them or not), and coffee or tea. A medieval banquet at Bunratty Castle near Limerick capped the final evening.

Group tour or private car with B and B (bed and breakfast): For your first trip to Ireland, I would suggest a group tour. By this mode of travel, there is a professionally set route to cover the small country well. A professional guide clues you in on the history and significance of places and events. The companionship of the group is a great plus, often occasioning strong friendships.

The B and B route has advantages. The cost is less. Meeting Irish families in their homes is a pleasure. But a friend of mine who rented a car and toured Ireland with his wife for the first time, doing the B and B route, said: "It was fine, but the car was low and the stone walls so high and so many that we missed a lot." The bus is high and gives good visibility, and with a trained guide, the significance of places is better appreciated. Of course, having relatives in Ireland can have greatest advantage, if the relatives are free to care for you.

Our guide and bus driver: Michael Redmond is a fervent nationalist. He reeled out the history of Ireland, the iniquities of Oliver Cromwell, the horrors of the 1840s potato famine. He expounded on the partition, the Black and Tans, and the dubious presence of British troops on Irish soil, with a remarkable knowledge of history, both of Ireland and the United

States. He badgered us, cajoled us, told funny stories and gave insights into Ireland's history and present problems stemming from 11 percent unemployment. He maintained a firm discipline, necessary when dealing with 33 persons and 33 temperaments, as well as 40 pieces of luggage.

Irish kindness: After celebrating Mass at the Shire of Our Lady at Knock, our group proceeded to Sligo, a city of 15,000 in Connaught, N.W. Ireland, en route to Donegal. Guide Michael said, "There are several good restaurants in Sligo to get your lunch. Return here to the bus in two hours."

Margaret Pollinger of Hornell left her coat behind in a restaurant. On reaching our hotel at Bundoran, 15 miles away, she remarked, "I hope whoever gets the coat can use it."

Dansville's Petie Hoffman, a legal secretary for 33 years said, "No. Let's call the restaurant."

They found the phone number and inquired about the coat. A male voice answered, "No, it's not here. But where did you go after you left here?"

"I went to a department store up the street a way," Margaret replied.

"Well, just hold the phone and I'll run up the street—and inquire," the man offered. He returned in a few minutes and said, "Your coat is at the store, and you can pick it up when you go through Sligo." Doesn't that warm the hear?

Religion: Are the Irish keeping the faith? I hear ominous reports that laxity is settling in, especially among the young, and I think it is true. But at the cathedral of Kilkenny our group went to Sunday Mass at 5 p.m., and the church was jammed to overflowing. Since I celebrated, I could view the whole congregation, and it was crowded with teenagers as well as families with children.

At the Franciscan church in Killarney, several priests were very busy before and after the three morning daily Masses hearing confessions. And the rosary and stations of the cross are evidently part of the spiritual life of many.

A favorite singing pub in Killarney is "The Larels," so while most went on that, I brought Art Farren to the beautiful Pugin Cathedral for a healing service. The cathedral was jammed, and chairs were set up in very available space, including the sanctuary. More than 2,000 people were there, and from the looks of them I should say, "They sure have the faith. Deo gratias."

Obituary

Elizabeth Nary at 83; active in civic affairs

A Mass of Christian Burial for Mrs. Elizabeth Nary was celebrated on November 4 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Rochester. Mrs. Nary, 83, died Friday, October 31, 1986. She was the widow of Raymond L. Nary Sr.

Mrs. Nary was born in Dansville, and moved to Rochester when she was married in 1925.

She was past president of the Ladies Auxiliary Knights of Columbus Council 178, with which she was a very active member for many years; chairing numerous functions.

As past president of the Holy Apostles Rosary Society, Mrs. Nary rolled bandages for the missions and coordinated activities

for the group. She was also an active member of the P.T.A. of Nazareth Academy and the Women's Guild of Nazareth College.

In recent years, Mrs. Nary did volunteer work with her husband at Hurlbut and Woodside Manor Nursing homes as well as the former Flower City Nursing Home. She also assisted her husband, who was master in the fifth New York district for 10 years, in organizing the Knights of Columbus entertainment for the veteran's hospital.

She is survived by two daughters, Betty Szembrot and Anne; two sons, Bob of Newark and Ray Jr.; 17 grandchildren; 12 great grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

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