

Young Adult Reflection

November 22, 2009

Today we celebrate the end of the Church year with the Solemnity of Christ the King. In the fifth century St. Augustine wrote a monumental work entitled the City of God. In it he compared the two paths that are open to all people. We can seek to be a member of the city of God or to be a member of the city of earth. In today's Gospel Jesus, as the heavenly king, is confronted by Pilate, a man of earthy rule. Pilate could not understand Jesus' kingship because Pilate could no longer understand the truth. But we can understand truth because we have been graced to know who He is. Let us then take a moment to look deeper into this kingly Truth – the One who wills to rule our hearts.

God bless and keep you all,
Fr. John Linden
Parochial Vicar

Gospel

Jn 18:33b-37

Pilate said to Jesus,
"Are you the King of the Jews?"
Jesus answered, "Do you say this on your own
or have others told you about me?"
Pilate answered, "I am not a Jew, am I?
Your own nation and the chief priests handed you over to me.
What have you done?"
Jesus answered, "My kingdom does not belong to this world.
If my kingdom did belong to this world,
my attendants would be fighting
to keep me from being handed over to the Jews.
But as it is, my kingdom is not here."
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."

Reflection:

Several years back when I was vigorously seeking a career in music and was auditioning with some local bands I ran into a Catholic girl in one of those bands to whom I

expressed some concerns. I told her of my desire to write our own music partly because of the often immoral lyrics found in many of the songs that this band was doing covers of. The young lady told me, "If you want to get to the top, this is where you have to start." I decided that day that I no longer wanted to get to the top of that worldly pursuit.

Pilot, today, asks of Jesus' kingship to which Jesus responds, "You say that I am a king." Jesus knows that Pilot has a far different understanding of kingship than the kind of kingship of which Jesus himself possesses. Therefore, Jesus, in effect, is saying to Pilot, "You ask if I am a king like you, and that I am not."

Pilot had long ago given up the pursuit of what was good and true or else he would never have obtained the position of earthy rule that he now possessed. That fact would be demonstrated in a very short while when he would go ahead and condemn an innocent man in order to keep his ruling position (because Rome would not have tolerated riots in one of its provinces).

Following the truth all the way to the end may cost us much in this world. We will have to make tough decisions at certain points about which kingdom, or which city, we are going to pursue; for both have riches, but in the end we will not be able to possess both and only one kingdom's riches are true and lasting.