

# The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

NOVEMBER 21, 2021

## Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

On the last Sunday of each liturgical year, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, or Christ the King.

Pope Pius XI instituted this feast in 1925 with his encyclical *Quas primas* ("In the first") to respond to growing secularism and atheism. He recognized that attempting to "thrust Jesus Christ and his holy law" out of public life would result in continuing discord among people and nations. This solemnity reminds us that while governments come and go, Christ reigns as King forever.

During the early twentieth century, in Mexico, Russia, and some parts of Europe, militantly secularistic regimes threatened not just the Catholic Church and its faithful but civilization itself. Pope Pius XI's encyclical gave Catholics hope and—while governments around them crumbled—the assurance that Christ the King shall reign forever. Jesus Christ "is very truth, and it is from him that truth must be obediently received by all mankind" (*Quas primas*, 7).

For Christians, when our faith is repeatedly marginalized in public life, we can fall into the habit of compartmentalizing our lives. We love Jesus in our private lives, but we shrink from acknowledging the kingship of Christ in social life. When we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King, we declare to the world and remind ourselves that Jesus is the Lord of the Church and of the entire universe.

## CCHD: Working on the Margins for Over 50 Years

For over 50 years, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development has worked on the margins by supporting groups that defend worker rights, promote responsible environmental practices, advocate for people with disabilities and immigrants, and support employee-owned businesses. On November 20- 21, many dioceses across the United States will take up the collection to support CCHD. When you participate in this collection, you help fight poverty nationwide and in your community because 25 percent of your contribution stays in your diocese to help local antipoverty initiatives. To learn more about CCHD, please find collection resources and the most current annual report here: <https://www.usccb.org/cchd/collection>. #1church1mission #PowerOfCCHD

