

**The Question of the Week**

“Are you the King of the Jews, Pilate asked Jesus.  
Jesus responded: My kingdom does not belong to this world.”  
John 18: 33

Americans, as a general rule, are not into Monarchies. There are some who have a fascination with the English Royal family and certain Philadelphians were entranced when Grace Kelly from Philadelphia married the Prince of Monaco and became Princess grace. But not too much beyond that. And if there is little interest in Kings there is also little interest in Kingdoms.

So, for us here, in this country, the feast of Christ the King has not had the full embrasso of the American Catholic community. Oh, I mean we understand the meaning and all and we sing: To Jesus Christ Our Sovereign King, but there is still something missing. But when Pilate asks Jesus if he is a king Jesus responds obliquely by saying that his kingdom is not of this world. His kingdom is of a different world. So there is a kingdom. But not here.

However, Jesus has come to announce the existence of this kingdom. More than that Jesus went on to say that the “Kingdom of God is at hand.” God is the King. God is King and Lord of all. Earthly kings pattern their own kingship on the divine kingship. This kingship, of another world, has entered into our world, entered into life on planet Earth. Jesus said that it was at hand. What is this kingdom? What kind of kingdom is it? The Kingdom of God is God’s understanding of the true meaning of all things. God has created and God had endowed with meaning. We are his creatures. We are not to redo what God has done. We are not to substitute our own thinking for what God has designed. That is always the danger and that is often the area of our sin.

The great truth revealed by Jesus is not just that there is a kingdom and that such a kingdom has broken into this life. It is that you and I and everyone on this earth have been invited to live in this kingdom—forever. Think about that. Forever. Can that possibly be true? The question of the Week.