

The solemnity of Christ the King has always been a very political feast.

It asserts the primacy of Christ
over the entire universe,
now, when his primacy is hidden
and at the end of time
when his primacy will
be manifest.

With the constant battles in our country
over the separation of church and state
we may have jettisoned Christ to
King of Heaven
but not here, not now,
not even, sadly, me.

Christ must be king in the here and now...
In 1947, the bishops of the United States
worried about "secularism,"

No man can disregard God — and play a man's part in God's world. Unfortunately, however, there are many men—and their number is daily increasing—who in practice live their lives without recognizing that this is God's world. For the most part they do not deny God. On formal occasions they may even mention His name. Not all of them would subscribe to the statement that all moral values derive from merely human conventions. But they fail to bring an awareness of their responsibility to God into their thought and action as individuals and members of society.

"For the most part, we do not deny God" – what a worrisome, though perhaps accurate statement about us now.
In the here and now, and the life to come,
Christ must be king of my life.

Last week, we celebrated the feast of a Mexican martyr Blessed, Miguel Pro – executed by firing squad in Mexico in **1927** during the persecution of the Church by the president of Mexico.

Despite all priests having been expelled from the country, He had returned to Mexico under cover, since being a priest was a crime, and ministered the sacraments in an underground church.

Framed for an assassination attempt on a political leader, captured, executed without trial, his last words, after forgiving his enemies “...long live Christ the King!”

He did not die immediately, so he was shot in the head at point blank range.

The Kingdom is to come, but the Kingdom is also already here. Last week, Mexican political activists invaded the cathedral in Mexico City during mass and terrorized the priest and people. They were angered because the church bell was ringing for mass during a speech by one of their leaders outside in the public square.

The bishop closed the cathedral for one week until the safety of worshippers could be assured.

Last week Pope Benedict warned the 23 newly created Cardinals, they must be ready to witness to Christ, "even to the shedding of blood."

That is not rhetoric.

What can I do?

Stand in Victory Park crying Christ the King?

(There were processions through towns in the past to celebrate this day.)

Hardly...I can give myself to Christ's primacy,
myself, my family.

I admit, I confess, I acknowledge
you to be my king and Lord

Forgive me when I act like
this place is my world

Help my life give witness
to your authority.

Your humble servant...

It sounds silly, unless you mean it. We don't usually speak in those terms.

Christ the King over Heaven and Earth.

Christ the King over me.