

The 1975 comedy film “*Monty Python and the Holy Grail*,” is a loose parody of the legend of King Arthur’s quest to find the Holy Grail.

In one scene, attempting to explain himself, he tells a peasant:

*I am your king.*

And receives the reply,

*Well I didn't vote for you.*

Today we celebrate the “*Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe.*”

Kings are difficult for 21st century minds to wrap around. We vote for our leaders, and despite having electoral participation, we still remain skeptical of them ... and how they exercise their offices in the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government.

Pope Pius XI recognized this growing skepticism of authority when, in 1925 - following the First World War - he instituted the “*Feast of Christ the King*” throughout the Universal Church.

At that time, the great empires of the world were breaking down, kings were being overthrown, and popular ethnic and nationalistic movements were tearing at the seams of European stability.

Pope Pius XI points out that he isn’t trying to oppose any particular king or movement, but rather that the Kingdom of God “*is opposed to none other than to that of Satan and to the power of darkness*”.

And that we as members of God’s Kingdom have certain responsibilities ... that the Kingdom of God “*demands of its subjects a spirit of detachment from riches and earthly things, and a spirit of gentleness. They must hunger and thirst after justice, and more than this, they must deny themselves and carry the cross.*”

Christ’s leadership ... rather, Christ’s Kingship ... is not exercised from a privileged place. Rather, he reigns from the Cross ... a victim of the abuses of worldly power and in contrast to the privileges grasped at by human authorities.

As we approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ - let us lay aside any worldly allusions toward power and authority ... and choose to embrace our citizenship with the Saints. May we reign with Christ in the Kingdom of God ... by living the Beatitudes ... and taking up our cross daily ... and following Jesus Christ ... our true and only King.