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BULLETIN

*Delores W. Tardieu*

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Volume I

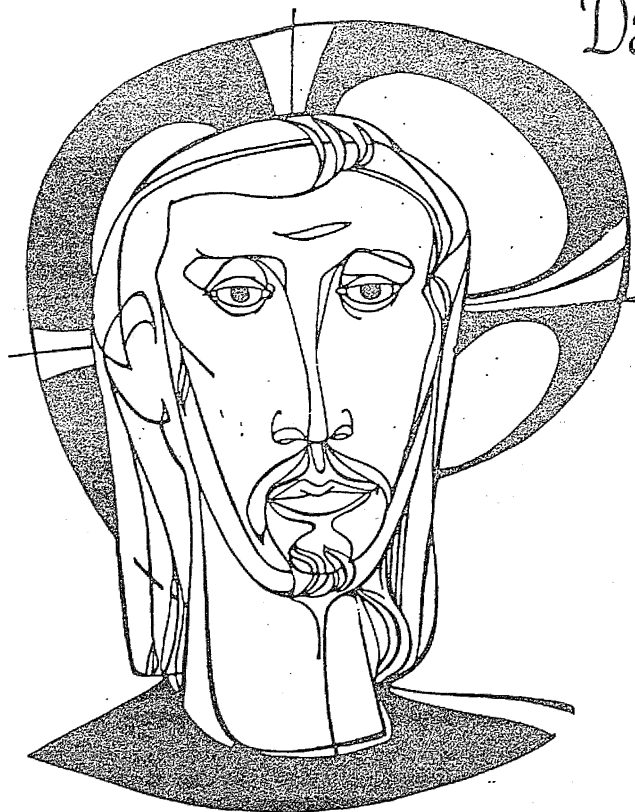
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University of Notre Dame

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# Jesus Christ What Kind of King

David Schlaver, CSC



Matthew's gospel about the separation of the sheep and goats just doesn't seem right! Neither had a chance to present their resumes. Worldly accomplishments never even came up for discussion. Both sides got the surprise of their lives!

Those unnoticed, spontaneous, unthinking acts of generosity and compassion of the sheep counted for everything. Virtue was not its own reward. It didn't even get mentioned.

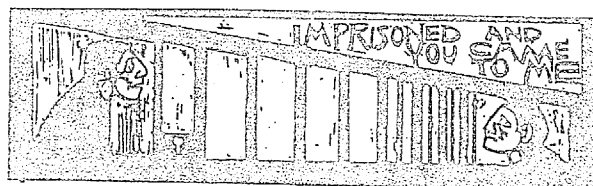
What kind of king is this? How could anyone follow him? After all, it is just a simplistic and out-of-date parable!

(cont.)

Have we perhaps bought into the fantasy of the modern world, rather than accept the facts of the gospel at hand? It's no big secret that our world is different, certainly larger, probably more complicated, and definitely less manageable.



But on the other hand, many of our brothers and sisters do have less nourishing food than our dogs and cats, than even our cows and chickens. Some do die naked, frozen, exposed to the elements. Many are homeless, without shelter, strangers in their own land, refugees on the seas or on foreign soil, with no more than beating heart and the rags on their backs.



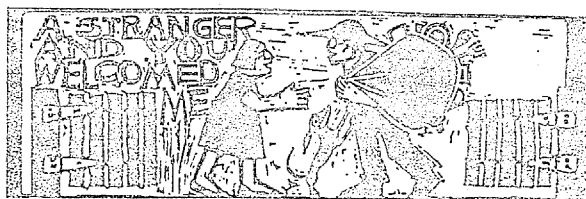
A great number have no medical care, let alone someone to visit them. And many are caught in political prisons, behind bars, across borders not of their own making, worshipping the wrong god in a foreign land.

It seems like a hopeless picture, but the great majority of those who so suffer are victims of human sin and oppression, of power struggles and greed, not of natural disasters.

COME — INHERIT THE KINGDOM  
YOU HAVE MY FATHER'S BLESSING

If we want to be identified with Christ the King, then we had better start grappling with the brutal facts which at times sound like a haunting litany to our sophisticated ears.

Who is this King Jesus? He certainly is different from what his own people expected. He constantly surprised them; should it be any different for us? His attitudes and actions toward the poor, oppressed, the rejected—the least of his brothers and sisters—are quite clear and consistent: HE LOVES THEM!



His message is good news for them. He is the kind of king who seeks out the lost and brings back the the strayed, binds up the injured, heals the sick. And then he judges. After a life spent associating with the least, he finally recognizes those who live their lives the same way, and disowns those who do not.

But how to fit that picture of a king into our modern world? Jesus was a hidden and anonymous shepherd-king rather than a world leader. He would never have won an election, received a "mandate" or been invited to a summit conference. Why he didn't even have a kingdom with recognizable borders!

Any royal image he had left at the end, died with him on the cross, flanked out in blood on the dust of Calvary.

But then, slowly, it started to happen. His first followers turned their lives around after meeting this king. They pooled their resources to make sure that all were taken care of. If their king could identify with the least, they could do no less.



A king who is gracious enough to be born among the least and die for them, is not going to listen to our self-serving excuses when our time for judgment comes. He is allied with them! So it would behoove us to get moving, before we end up as the goats of this very human story.

Our king is a God who resides in the skin and bones of the least among us and yet at the same time can bring us all to his throne in glory.

Rev. David E. Schlaver, C.S.C. is the Editor and Publisher of the Ave Maria Press, Notre Dame.

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## The Season of Advent beginning December Second

... is a period of four weeks starting the 1st Sunday after the feast of St. Andrew (Nov. 30). During this season we celebrate the coming of the Lord Jesus to earth, and his continuing presence in the church community.

The scripture readings for the 1st and 2nd weeks of the season focus on Jesus' coming at the world's end to judge all women and men. The readings for the second half of Advent center on the special joy and hope of the Christmas feast.

The liturgical colors of the season are purple and rose, signifying metanoia (change) and hope.

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### JOHN PAUL II and the CATHOLIC VISION

- Wednesday evenings, 7:30 - 8:15
- Little Theatre, LaFortune Student Center

...a series of talks designed to introduce several of the major themes of John Paul II's Pontificate. Each talk will focus on one or more recent addresses of the Pope; copies of these documents will be available for participants.

### Nov. 28: MARY and the SAINTS: What Role Do They Play in the Church?

Why, in the Pope's grand view of the Church for the 21st Century, does he place so much emphasis on Mary and the Saints? Why has he recently asked all the bishops of the world to consecrate their countries to Our Lady? Fr. Edward O'Connor, Theology, takes a closer look at this dimension of the Faith commonly misunderstood today.

Sponsored by the Thomas More Society of Notre Dame

Last week, Bishop McManus made an appeal for a special collection to help pay for the shipping costs for the food to be sent to the starving people of Ethiopia. The Notre Dame Community, through graduate and undergraduate residence halls and Sacred Heart Church collected a total of \$6979.81. This money has been forwarded to the diocese for immediate use.

However, if you still wish to contribute, please put the donation in an envelope marked "Ethiopia" and drop it in the collection basket. It is going to take many months to help the Ethiopians recover from the plague of starvation.

THE WORKS OF MERCY  
FEED THE HUNGRY.  
CLOTHE THE NAKED.  
GIVE DRINK TO THE  
THIRSTY. VISIT THE  
IMPRISONED.  
CARE FOR THE SICK.  
BURY THE DEAD



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## Rest in Peace

Please remember in your prayers the family and friends of Don Taylor, a student from Howard Hall, who died on November 17th.

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