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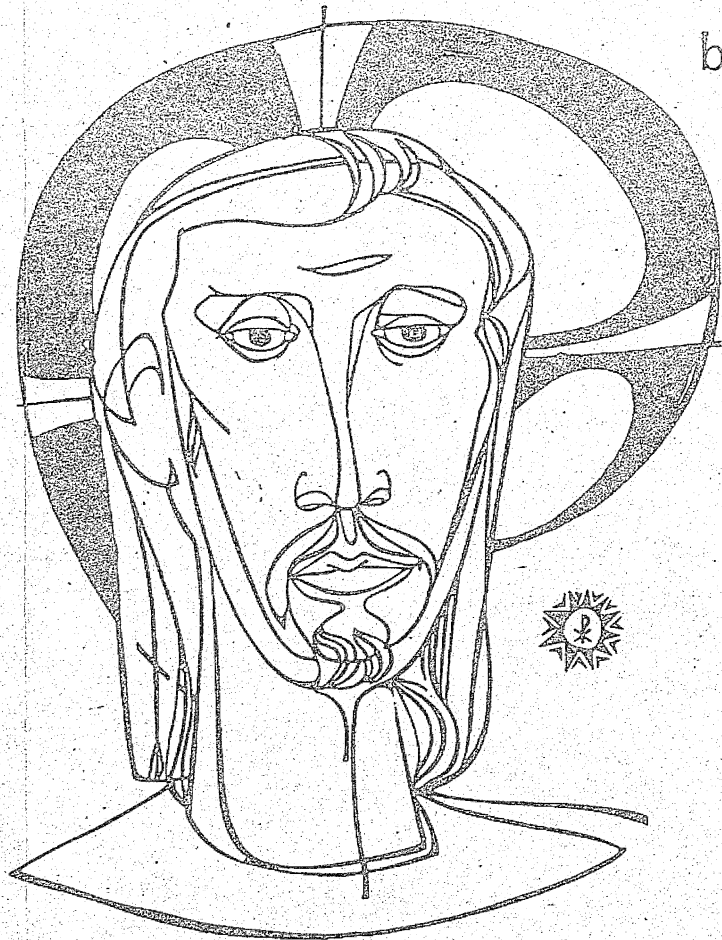
BULLETIN

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Office of University Ministry
University of Notre Dame

A Stained Glass Window for our World

by Thomas Gedeon S.J.



"Dreams are the stained glass windows of the soul" someone wrote recently. Carefully studied, dreams provide us with insight about what is going on in our lives. Dreams put us in touch with a deeper reality that sometimes escapes us in day-to-day consciousness.

Dream images are fashioned in the imagination. They are vital to creative living. Artists and engineers, journalists and scientists, educators and political leaders thrive on imagination. Imagination orchestrates our faculties of sense, memory, intellect-our history, experience and feelings-to form images about our world so we can find ways to cope with it, shape it, love it, and even make it happen. Images help us communicate with our world and with one another.

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

Religious images are important too. We fashion images of God and of what is holy and sacred. The photo image of earth taken from space fills us with awe and with reverence. Creation is holy. The religious imagination tries literally to imagine things with God. It attempts to see and image the world as God sees it. And we are touched at the deepest core of our being by these images.

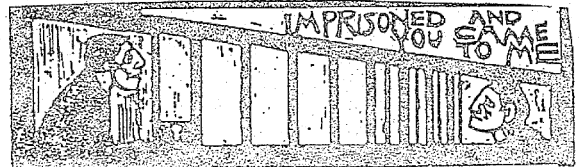
One such image in both Old and New Testament is the image of "Kingdom". No one knows for sure when the title "king" was first applied to Yahweh. Israel experienced Yahweh as one who had dominion over its history. Israel had a dream that one day the "reign of God" would happen.



Hence there was really very little that was novel in Jesus' preaching about the "kingdom." He assumed his audience knew about the reign of Yahweh. The concept dominated his preaching and gave meaning to his life and his activity: God reigns over history and He does so in order to change things.

This provides us with two keys to understand Jesus: first, Jesus is not the focus of his own preaching—the kingdom is;

second, Jesus did not talk about God but rather about the changes that needed to be made to bring about the "reign of God." The "signs" or "images" of the reign of God are happening, he tells the disciples of the Baptist: "Go tell John, the blind see, the lame walk, the poor have the good news preached to them."



Throughout the gospel, even when the word is not used, we feel a movement of compassion about Jesus. His concern is for the alienated, the marginalized—the widow, the hungry, the little ones. Of such is the kingdom. What he wanted most of all was to awaken people to the unjust structures that oppressed people of his time. That was his dream, his image of the reign of God.



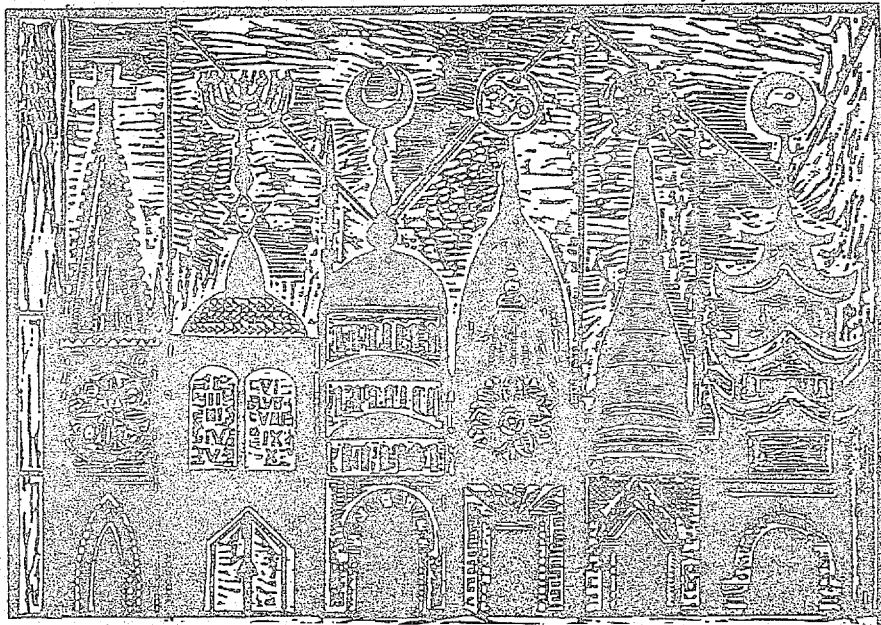
And so, on this feast of Christ the King, 1985, we must be about the tasks of God's reign in our world. It is a day to sharpen the images of our hope for the world. Can we dream of a world at peace, a world in which hungry are fed, the naked clothed?

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

And with that dream can we put
all our energies and talents
to the task of making it happen?

As the leaders of the super-
powers meet in search of world
peace, let our prayer, our dream
be that of Isaiah.

"They shall beat their swords into plowshares.
and their spears into pruning hooks;
one nation shall not train for war again...
He will destroy death forever; the Lord God
will wipe away the tears from all faces."



*"How easy it is for me to live with you, O Lord! How easy it is for
me to believe in you!*

*"When, in perplexity, my spirit bares itself or bends, when the most
intelligent do not see farther than this evening and do not know what
will have to be done tomorrow: you pour into me the serene certitude
that you exist and that you are watching out to see that all the paths of
the good not be closed.*

*"On the crest of earthly glory, I consider with astonishment this path
through despair. This path from which I myself have been able to send
to humanity a reflection of your rays.*

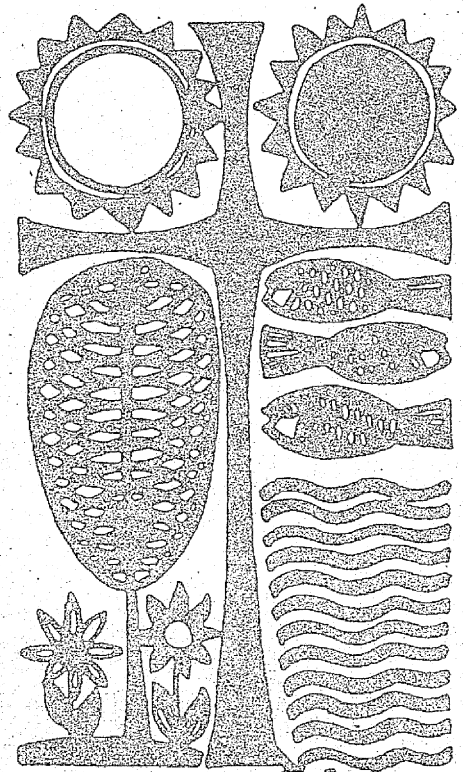
*"All that I shall still have to reflect of them, you will grant me. And
what I shall not succeed in reflecting, you have assigned to others."*

ALEXANDER SOLZHENITSIN

A Thanksgiving Prayer

Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ,
For all the benefits and blessings
which you have given me,
For all the pains and insults
which you have borne for me.
Merciful Friend, Brother and Redeemer,
May I know you more clearly,
Love you more dearly,
And follow you more nearly,
Day by day.

St. Richard of Chichester (1197-1253)



Rita Corbin

What Should Catholics Know About...

PRAYER

SACRAMENTS

SCRIPTURE and TRADITION

MORALITY

CHURCH



The CATHOLIC FAITH PROGRAM will address these topics on SUNDAYS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 17 in Grace Hall) and TUESDAYS (Jan. 22 - Feb. 19 in Keenan-Stanford and Walsh Halls)... 7 - 8:30 p.m.

**Pre-registration Necessary
...deadline December 3rd**



Contact: OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY MINISTRY
239-6536 or 239-5242

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