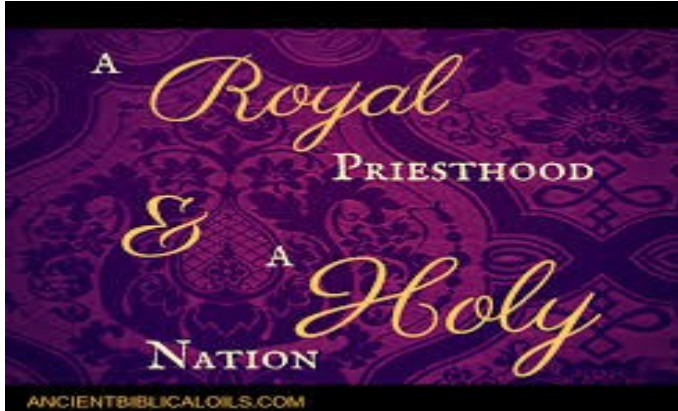


OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST THE ETERNAL HIGH PRIEST



Today is the Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ the Eternal High Priest

It is a Roman Catholic moveable feast celebrated annually on the first Thursday after Pentecost. Since 2018, the feast is observed in England and Wales.

The Second Vatican Council taught many things about the Priesthood of Christ and how his one Priesthood is shared through the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Orders.

Our baptismal call as Christians has many effects.

- Through baptism we are accorded with the forgiveness of all sin (original and personal) and the infusion of God's life into our soul.
- We also receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and God marks our soul with an indelible mark.
- We are incorporated into the Body of Christ, the Church.

As a result, God gives us a share of the three-fold office of Christ: priest, prophet, and king.

This office is really a mission for each and everyone. Therefore, all baptized Christians are priests. We call this the common priesthood or the priesthood of the faithful. Christ is true priest. As Thomas Aquinas notes, "*Only Christ is the true priest, the others being only his ministers.*" There must be an ongoing unpacking of the two participations into the one priesthood of Christ: the ministerial priesthood and the common priesthood of the faithful.

Suffices to note that these two participations differ in nature or in essence, but not in degree. In the case of St Joseph's is it that Father Naz is "more" of a priest and the rest of the community "less" of a priest? Should we look at the ministerial priesthood, received through the laying on of hands by a bishop, as matter for another post?

So what does it mean for us to share in the priesthood of Christ as laity? In 1 Peter 2, Peter reminds us that the laity are a holy priesthood. They have been called to something great: "*You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.*"

Fr Naz, 4/6/20