Reflection for Sunday, November 26, 2017: 34th Week in Ordinary Time.

Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe.

One morning while driving to the university I can describe as a rather mystical experience…. There were high winds, leaves twirling and scattering across the road, a flock of birds moving in an opposite direction, clouds of dust from a nearby construction site were rising up giving an awesome translucent hue as if I was gazing through a veil to the scene before me. I felt I was driving into and through another dimension! A feeling of mystery and expectation….

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord"

This same date, at night, we experienced the cosmic array of Orionids. Above me to gaze upon was a scene of multiple shooting stars, or meteor showers, across the heavens. Not too long ago, too, we witnessed a complete solar eclipse! Wow! The heavens reveal the glory of God! A feeling of awe and wonder…

Yes, God, you are the Christ -- the King of the UNIVERSE! All creation bows in reverence to you. You are so very present!

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord"

However, in all but one of reading of today, the image isn’t a cosmic world, but that of a shepherd. Not quite what people were expecting of a king when Jesus entered the scene. Not a messiah of power to rule a world with oppression, war, revolution and violence. Let us imagine, a shepherd king, under a starry sky caring for the flock with tenderness and love. Such is the metaphor scripture gives us. Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will look after and tend my sheep as a shepherd tends his flock….EZ 34: 11-The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.—Psalm 23

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord"
On January 9, the day after the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, Roman Catholics entered upon the first span of that liturgical season called “Ordinary Time.” This “green” season is generally composed of five or six weeks between the end of the Christmas Season and the beginning of Lent and a span of 25 or 26 weeks, lasting from Pentecost through the Solemnity of Christ the King (celebrated on the 34th Sunday of Ordinary Time). And, to be honest, as I grow older, I appreciate the stripped-down quality of Ordinary Time more and more. At the core of this span of time is the realization that the mysteries we celebrate in these other seasons are so rich, so wonder-ful that we need time to make sense of them. Advertising.