

The Epiphany of the Lord

January 7, 2018

The Feast of the Epiphany, or Manifestation of the Lord, has a threefold manifestation: first to the Gentiles at the manger; secondly to the Jews at the baptism in the Jordan; and thirdly to the disciples at the marriage feast in Cana of Galilee. These manifestations are brought out in the liturgy through the Divine Office, particularly Vespers with the beautiful antiphons that mention these elements. Our Lord came to save all and not just a chosen nation. To be saved one must be a part of His Church, the new chosen people. We must thank God for the gift of Faith, since by it “He has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light” (1Pet 2:9).

Presently there are approximately 1.3 billion Catholics in the world with a total population estimated at 7.6 billion. That leaves a lot of people still sitting in darkness and the shadow of death (cf. Is. 9:2). Even if they possess some of the truth, they lack the fullness of truth and the incorporation into the Body of Christ. Therefore we must be zealous in our efforts for the propagation of the Faith. It is through our prayers and sacrifices that we can prepare hearts to enter the Church.

We must have faith like that of the Magi, who travelled a long way to see their Heavenly King and bring gifts. Our faith has to be pure as the gold they offered, not deviating from the Church’s teaching. Our faith has to be like the fragrant incense such that our deeds will manifest the sweet odor of Christ. Our faith has to be like the myrrh, whose bitterness reminds us of the sacrifices necessary to win souls. We are going to suffer many things, be it from the world jeering at us or the temptations that we are daily confronted with, in order to bring about conversions. Let us remember in all these difficulties that it is an opportunity to suffer for Christ, Who suffered for us. Charity along with these sufferings will prepare the ground for our constant conversion and also for the conversion of those we meet. This way our Faith is manifested to those around us.

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