

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (SOLEMNITY)

Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (R. cf. 11); Ephesus 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:2; Matthew 2:1-12

MANIFESTATION TO ALL NATIONS

"What ordinarily deceives us is the appearance of good according to human reason which never, or rarely, falls in with the Divine." – St. Vincent de Paul, CCD 2:520

On a festive day, one of the students gave a beautifully packaged gift to one of his classmates. When she unwrapped it, the manifestation of a life snake threw everyone off balance. Instantly, the yelling and screaming of students in that hostel alerted the immediate attention of security men who rushed and killed the snake. Immediately, the student was rusticated from the school.

The kind of gift given depicts the giver's intention. Undoubtedly, giving a venomous snake to anyone shows a wicked intention. On the other hand, the gift of the child Jesus to all nations *manifests God's compassionate heart to his children.*

My dear brothers and sisters, today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. Epiphany comes from the Greek word, *'epiphaneia'* meaning *"appearance"* or *"manifestation."* Therefore, we commemorate a three-dimensional revelation- *Christ's self-revelation to the entire human race, how the magi revealed him, and how we should reveal him.*

Before the birth of Jesus Christ, darkness shrouded the whole earth, and there was confusion. It was in this context that the message of hope from the prophet Isaiah came to the people, saying, *"Arise, shine, for your light has come and the glory of the Lord is risen upon you."* (Isaiah 60:1) Consequently, people waited anxiously till the birth of the true light, Jesus Christ.

Unlike the Jews, who were nonchalant and Herod sought to kill him, when the three wise men from the East saw the star, *they rose from their comfort zone and diligently followed the star to seek the newborn king.* They were *filled with joy and gratitude* when they reached the place where the child Jesus was born. *Moreover, they adored the child Jesus.*

In addition, they gave three essential gifts to the newborn king—*gold, frankincense, and myrrh*—thus *revealing him as the true King, the perfect High Priest, and his mortality.* Moreover, when they were about to return home, they were instructed in a dream to use another route. They obeyed the word of God, which left Herod frustrated in his wicked plan.

If we prioritize obedience to God's word, we will always be victorious against our enemies, who may have dug a pit for us. This way, our testimony of his goodness will reveal him to more people.

Lastly, in the second reading, St. Paul states, *"The Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel (v.6).* God's gift to us has made us happy. In gratitude to God's love as brothers and sisters, we should strive to make one another happy, which is the secret of always being happy. Are you still seeking happiness elsewhere?

Grant that by responding positively to God's gift, we may be happy with him in eternity, Amen

HAPPY FEAST OF THE LORD'S EPIPHANY

Nicholas, CM;

Witnesses Homilies (Mt.10:32)