

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Today we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord. The Epiphany reveals that the Christ, the Jewish Messiah, had come not only for the Jews but for the whole world.

In the first reading Isaiah looked forward to the fulfillment of the divine promises to re-create the covenant people, the city of Jerusalem and God's dwelling among them.

“Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, and the glory of the Lord shines upon you.”

Isaiah stressed that God's act of restoration would be witnessed by foreign nations, which would thus recognize the saving work of the Lord.

“Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance.”

The prophecy of Isaiah started being fulfilled when the star led the Magi to the newly born savior.

In ancient times, people believed that a new star would appear in the sky whenever a babe destined to become something great was born.

In his goodness, God caused a star to appear in the sky, a sign which the Magi could understand, to let them know that the savior of the world had been born.

The star guided them on their way. They thought of Jerusalem as the obvious place for the king of the Jews to be born. But on reaching there, the star disappeared, as if telling them that they were looking for the Messiah in the wrong place.

Only when Herod sent them on their way to Bethlehem the star reappeared and the sight of the star filled them with joy.

And they were overjoyed when the star stopped over the house that the child was. And on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage and offered him gifts.

The point is the Magi paid attention to the signs of their time. When they saw the star that signified something important was happening beyond their borders, they were willing to displace themselves to discover what it might be. They had enough faith to go and seek more.

As a result of their search, God enlightened their hearts with a light far more powerful than that of the star. Though all they saw was just a babe belonging to a poor family, they recognized him for what he truly was the savior of the world and their own savior and worshipped him.

The point is the Magi came to seek and to worship. They came to pay homage. They came with open hearts to recognize one greater than themselves.

The Magi remind us that God always invites us to seek him. And anytime we come to him with open hearts we will recognize him for what he truly is, the one greater than ourselves; our creator.

In this New Year 2019 let us intensify our quest to come to him in order to know him better. Let seek to develop our spiritual life; our relationship with God.

Let us allow our faith be for us a star leading us on our life's journey.

We read in the Gospel that the star both appeared and disappeared from the Magi's sight, but they continued their journey. They did not lose hope.

So if on our life's journey our star disappears, our faith fades, that is, in our difficult times we must not lose hope but have the courage to continue our search for God and life's answers.

What we should know is that the light of God continues to shine in the world, enabling us to continue our journey despite the darkness that attempts to extinguish it.

So, in all things let us continue to worship God and offer him our personal gifts; gold, that is, the richness of our lives, frankincense, that is, our love for him and myrrh, that is, the bitterness and suffering we carry within us.