



St. Anne
CATHOLIC
COMMUNITY

January 3, 2010 Solemnity of the Epiphany

"Where is the new born King...we observed his star at its rising and have come to do him homage."
Matthew 2:2

Dear Friends;

In Latin America and among Hispanic communities in the U.S. today is known as "El Día de los Reyes," the "Day of Kings." There is a tradition among these communities to place a small plastic Jesus in a cake baked for the feast day.

The statuette nestled in the dough represents the efforts to hide the child from the murderous intentions of King Herod. As the cake is cut, the slicing knife signifies the danger posed to the infant Jesus by the cruel king.

In some places it is customary that whoever gets the piece of cake with the figurine of baby Jesus is obligated to host the next family gathering on February 2, which is the feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple. In other places whoever finds the baby Jesus in his or her piece of cake receives an array of gifts from those present.

These traditions make real for us both the danger inherent in the revelation of Christ and the joy that comes in discovering the revelation of God's love.

Jesus is born in a world that is not only broken but dangerous. Its inequalities can be violently defended by those who profit from the status quo. We see this in the evil intentions of Herod in today's Gospel reading. Yet for those who seek a new world Jesus appears as a star—light. He is the morning star that hails a new day, and a new world.

Anyone who waits for that day can discover it in Jesus. The Kings from afar, the Magi represent seekers of all times and places who await our world radically transformed. Herod represents those who violently hold onto things the way they are—because it benefits them.

Those who are different often frighten us. But the strangers from far away in today's Gospel are our friends because they alert us to the Holy One of God who is in our midst. This story is a reminder for us, to welcome those come from afar (immigrants) and who live among us. These visitors can alert us to the Christ.

Peace and Joy

Fr. Ron