



St. Anne
CATHOLIC
COMMUNITY

January 6, 2013

Christmastime—the Epiphany of the Lord

“...behold, Magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, ‘where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.’” Matthew 2:1-2

Dear Friends;

I received a very funny card this Christmas time from one of our members. The card (pictured below) shows three women, one on a horse, another on a camel and the Virgin Mary astride a donkey led by Joseph. Each animal has a bumper sticker proclaiming the achievement of each one’s child. One tells us her child to be an “honor student,” the next one announces “Our son is in Medical School,” the sticker on Mary’s donkey proclaims, “Our Son is God!” The woman on the horse cynically comments, “Well if it isn’t Joseph and Mary...”

In many ways today’s Gospel story from Matthew is like a bumper sticker proclaiming what a unique gift is the child of Mary and Joseph. However, it is not a gift that all will welcome. For some it is news that is disturbing; for Herod it will be a cause of murderous jealousy.

The story of the Magi is really our story. Each of us is called to follow the star that leads us into a deeper relationship with Jesus. It can be a long journey with twists and turns. But we do not travel alone we have companions along the way. There will be those who help us. There are those who will try and deceive us—the Herods who want to manipulate and use us. But the good news is if we remain faithful to the quest we will find what we desire more than anything else in the world!

The irony of this story is the contrast between those who should welcome God’s revelation in Jesus (Herod, the chief priests, the scribes) and those who are willing to believe in Jesus, the Gentiles of good will (the Magi). Those who had all the benefit of the Prophets and the Torah, miss what these Gentiles could see in the natural wonder of a star!

The gifts that these Gentile searchers bring represent the mission of Jesus: gold—he is King and gathers people as one, Frankincense—symbol of prayer offered and the divine, in Jesus the human is united with God; Myrrh—used for embalming, Jesus will offer his life as gift and sacrifice. Those who discover Jesus will share in the mission of gathering peoples together, to offer intercession on behalf of the world and to embody Divine compassion, and finally offer the sacrifice of praise—joining our own personal sacrifice with the perfect sacrifice of Christ Jesus.

Let us never forget to keep searching for him who is our light, our life and meaning. Let us be grateful to those who help us along the journey of faith. Let us also realize that not everyone is going to greet our divine encounter with open arms. Let us pray for them but not be fooled or led astray by them. And finally let us rejoice for those who seek the Lord will find him. Let us find him and present to him the gifts of gold and incense of our lives.

Peace,

Fr. Ron

