



A letter from the pastor...

Dear Parishioners:

We do not know who these mysterious wise men were. They probably came sometime after the birth of Jesus since Joseph and Mary now lived in a house (Mt. 2:11). Herod had all the boys two years and younger slaughtered out of fear one of them was the Messiah. They must have been a bit of a mystery since visitors like these would have little to no reason to visit Bethlehem.

This feast celebrates Jesus' *Epiphany* (manifestation) to the world. He was not meant to be a mere prophet for the locals, but for all mankind. It is a feast for all of us today which should inspire you and me to "bring our gifts" and also manifest Jesus to the world.

From my friend Venerable Bishop Fulton Sheen — *Some years ago, W. Gascoyne Cecil recorded his observations on the way art depicts the Three Wise Men. He observed that they were generally represented as of different ages. One was old, one middle-aged and one young. The tradition has it that this belief came from the lips of the great Marco Polo who, when he went to Persia, tried to find out all he could about the Wise Men. Finally coming to a little town, he found that a devotion to the Three Kings who had followed a star to worship a great Being born in the West, and their ages were very different.*

As Gascoyne Cecil tells the story, when they (The Three Wise Men) came to the stable of Bethlehem, they went in one at a time. First went in the old man, and instead of finding what he expected, he found an Old Man who talked with him. He was then followed by the middle-aged man. He was in turn met by a Teacher of his own years who spoke with him. When the young man went and entered in, he in turn found a young Prophet.

The three met together outside the stable and marveled — how was it that all three had gone in to worship the Being who was just born, and they had not found a child, but men of different ages? The old man had found the Old, the middle-aged the Middle-Aged, and the young the Young.

Taking their gifts, they go in all together, and are amazed to discover that the Prophet is a Babe of twelve days old. Each sees separately in Christ the reflection of his own condition. The old man sees the old, the middle-aged sees the middle-aged and the young the young. But when they go all together, they see Christ as he is. We shall find in Christ the answer to all our needs and in all the periods of our life.



Each of us, old, middle-age or youth is invited to encounter this Being, this God-man, this Jesus who took on our human nature that we know as the Father's love for us. So whatever age you are, what will you do to manifest him to the world? Of course, this implies living a good and moral life before others that brings God's life alive for them.

You do not need a degree in theology to talk about God. The Wise Men stepped out of their comfort zones to travel to foreign lands, through dangerous country sides, to see a hope that might change the world. At every Mass the priest invites us **to dare to say** the Lord's Prayer. Let us **dare** to be brave, confident, secure in the truth, and actively make him known.

I dare each parishioner to evangelize one other person this year and help them find their way back into the Church or into the Church for the first time and be one with us in worship. We have a great gift to offer those seeking God's love and presence — God himself in the Eucharist.

Let's be the Magi to a world needing direction and show them Truth in the flesh.

Pace – Bene,

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