

JANUARY 8, 2017



SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



ISAIAH 60:1-6

PSALM 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13

EPHESIANS 3:2-3A, 5-6

MATTHEW 2:1-12

REFLECTION

Isn't it odd how two people can have entirely different reactions to the exact same experience? The first time I went to the art museum with my friend Ken, I was ho-hum about what I was seeing. Ken, a true artist, was moved to tears. Two people in the same room, looking at the same artwork, one of us uninspired and the other deeply moved. Over time, Ken has shown me the wonders hidden in art, and I've had some "aha moments" along the way. Ken has shown me a deeper reality that was there all along. Likewise, on this Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, the Magi also show us a deeper reality. Sometimes when we tell the Christmas story, we think of it as happening all at once. But several years had actually passed between the birth of Jesus and the visit from the three Magi. Jesus had been there the whole time with Mary and Joseph, eating, sleeping, and exploring his world like an ordinary kid. Yet this baby Jesus was not just any little boy; he was the King of the World! Only a few people had a hunch how extraordinary he was, and it took strangers from the East to make the wonder of his presence known to all. Jesus is like God's work of art, always present in our midst, but we don't always recognize him. We need to pay attention or we just might miss the Divine Presence right in front of us.

ACTION

Epiphany is an ideal time to look upon the world around us with new eyes. There is wonder everywhere! Consider the most basic things we take for granted every day—clean water, food, shelter, clothes, healthy bodies, our education—what gifts! Then there are tiny snowflakes and orange sunsets. There are conveniences of the modern world that would have been unimaginable a century ago: flying through the air in a tube with wings, walking on the moon, "talking with our fingers" on our phones. It's all amazing when we stop to think about it! Let us be thankful today for all the natural and human-made wonders of the world. All is a gift from God and can be used to praise him! As today's psalm says, "Lord, every nation on earth will adore you" (Psalm 72), take a moment to ask God, the Great Artist, to help you create something beautiful and make it known to the entire world.

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

● The word epiphany means revelation, illumination, or insight. Have you ever had an epiphany of your own? What new realization did you come to? How did it change you?