

We Have Seen His Star



We begin a new year... and as we do, the Church invites us to celebrate the feast of the Epiphany, the feast of Manifestation. The Good News that was quietly proclaimed in a cave on the hillside of Bethlehem is now revealed to the world in the persons of three astrologers - the three kings or wise men from the East. Epiphany, then, surrounds the birth of Jesus with signs and symbols of His mission to be the universal Messiah: the star, the wise men and the gifts laid at His feet - frankincense to acknowledge Him as God, myrrh to pay tribute to his humanity, and gold to acclaim him as king.

One of the most fundamental challenges of our faith is that of "taking ownership." The Babe of Bethlehem grew to maturity by taking ownership of His own life and mission. Doing His Father's will was never easy; it made Him different; it made Him unpopular; it kept Him poor; it led Him to preach and teach constantly; it involved Him with the pain and the hunger and the suffering of His brothers and sisters. Ultimately, it led Him to betrayal, rejection and death on a cross.

For those of us who believe in God's gift of His Son Jesus, there is only one choice. We walk in the Light of His love and His truth made manifest. That is what guides us day by day. We are never really abandoned, or helpless, or lost. We cannot allow those around us to walk in that kind of darkness, either. Each day of this New Year will give us an opportunity to celebrate life, to share love, to enkindle hope. It will provide new occasions for service to others, for compassion and understanding, for listening and learning. Each day will bring a challenge to each of us - to take what we have experienced, what we have been given... and to consciously work to complete His mission: to re-create the face of the earth into a world where all human life is always defended, where the poor and outcast are made welcome, where those held bound by sickness, disease or hatred are set free, and where all can come to know God's all-embracing love.

