

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners:

This weekend we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany, the Adoration of the Magi. It is interesting to note that in some countries, the Feast of the Epiphany is observed and celebrated with greater solemnity and festivity than Christmas Day itself. This is especially true in Latino Countries.

There are a number of lessons that can be drawn from this great Feast. Among them the Catholic belief that the visit of the Magi serves as a reminder that the coming of the Savior was meant to be an event for everyone. These visitors from the East, or Magi, represent the gentile nations of the world. In fact, their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh point to the identity of Jesus. Origen, a Father of the Church who is widely regarded as one of the most important Christian theologians, wrote in his book, ***Contra Celsum***, ". . .gold, as to a king; myrrh, as to one who was mortal; and incense, as to a God."

The Christmas Season will come to a close next Sunday, January 10th, with the celebration of the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

Recall that Pope Francis has frequently reminded us that if you want to know if you are truly living the Christian life you should reflect on the *Works of Mercy*. With that in mind I'd like to reprint the poem, "The Mood of Christmas," by American poet, Howard Thurman:

**"When the song of the angels is silent,
When the star of the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are again tending their sheep, When the manger is darkened and still. . .**

**The work of Christmas begins: To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,**

**To rebuild nations,
To bring peace among people, To befriend the lonely,
To release the prisoner,
To make music in the heart. . . ."**

We begin the work of Christmas as its season now comes to a close. So, as you can see the Church invites us not so much to "celebrate" Christmas as to be "transformed" by our celebration of the birth of Jesus. Are you able to describe how this might have happened in you? How have you become more like Jesus?

Let us pray that the widespread distribution of the Covid-19 vaccine in the months ahead will help in the control and ultimate elimination of this terrible virus.

