

January 7, 2018

One time, I was an epiphany to somebody else. I was at my last parish and I went down to the quick mart to get gasoline, I was in my blacks with my collar, I forget where I was going, and I walked in; it was Halloween. The clerk, she laughed, "oh look, you dressed up like a priest!" Two people in there, from the parish said, "he is a priest." Poor thing went all red, and disappeared from the counter for a while. So, you never know.

The epiphany, means to manifest or to make known. It's usually applied to Jesus, to God. We call them miracles a lot of times; manifestation of God. In the old days we celebrated three epiphanies of God. The baptism at the Jordan, the wedding at Cana, and what we read in the gospel today, the shepherds finding the baby Jesus. But, as we got to the new calendar, they did away with the feast of the wedding at Cana and the baptism of Jesus can either be a Sunday or a weekday as it is tomorrow. This is the main epiphany event that we celebrate in our calendar today. But it shows, just how important the savior was to the world.

We go back to Daniel. Most people don't realize this. We go back to Daniel; Daniel, Mishael, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, those four guys were put into the school of the King Nebuchadnezzar in Babylon. Well, what is this school? It's the magi school. Daniel was a magi. He was schooled to be one of them. He never went back to Jerusalem or Israel; he stayed there his whole life. In doing so, he adds the Jewish knowledge, the Jewish tradition, the Jewish scriptures, to the school. So, they too knew that there was going to be a messiah, a savior of the world coming. Now these guys were, astronomers, astrologers, they read signs, they watched the sky mainly. They measured distance between planets and distance between stars, but at that time they couldn't tell the difference, it was just lights in the sky. They knew by the Jewish scriptures and by the stars in the sky, when this messiah was going to come. So, they set out in a caravan; three guys do not go out in the desert by themselves. They would end up missing, disappearing, buried under the sand somewhere and we'd dig up mummies sometime later. In the caravan, it wasn't just three of them, three has come down to us because of two reasons. One, you can't have more statues in the family because it gets crowded. And, two; three gifts. But, there are indications that there were twelve or more magi that showed up. And yes, they were all men, because if there was a woman in the group, she would have helped the Blessed Mother wash the diapers, and made a meal, and all that kind of thing. They came because they had read the signs. When the scientists went back and through computer programming, we have found that the sign that they were following, the star, took place in the year three B.C. Jesus would have been about one year old, two years old. So, our calendar is off. This should be the year 2021 or 2022. And, you're going to say, 'Father, don't rush it.' That's right, you're barely learning how to write 2018 in your checkbook. So, three B.C., what happened? What happened was, the planet Venus and the planet Jupiter, as we know them today, the two brightest lights in the sky at that time, got so close together that their light merged and became the brightest light in the sky. They knew that from their studies, and from the prophecies in the Old Testament, they needed to get ready to go on the trip; and they found Him. They were searching, many people are searching for God. People say today, "I'm spiritual." What does that mean? Well, I believe in Budweiser as my god. I'm spiritual, I'm into monster truck racing. Well, that's what we see; we call it idolatry. A lot of people are searching for a power in their lives, to give it meaning. The thing about it, if they only realized, our God, who loves, us doesn't want us to search. He doesn't want us to search because, He came to us. He came down from heaven to us so we wouldn't have to continue the search. So that we would have somebody to give our life meaning. Think about your life, go back in time. If you

were not Catholic or Christian; what would your life be like? Would you be dead of suicide? Would you be dead of drug overdose or something else? That's usually what happens if there is no higher power to give our lives meaning. People are constantly seeking, Buddhism, Yoga, all these different things, and yet, there is Jesus Christ waiting for them and actually coming to meet them. He is coming to meet them with open arms and they side step, and they miss Him. Because, there is nobody to show them a sign. Everybody wants a sign. Well, the sign for the magi was the star and because of Daniel. Somebody from the Jewish tradition, had put it in their minds earlier. Hundreds of years earlier, but earlier. We are called to be stars; we are called to be the directional signal. Jesus is here by our actions, by our words. We are called to be the epiphany to bring Jesus to others. Let me show you Jesus! Let me bring you to Him so you don't have to keep seeking. People are brought to Jesus, not by reading, but by other people, by their lives. There was a missionary school, and they had a young girl from Africa, she wanted to be a missionary. After learning what Jesus is all about, she said, "that's an old man in my village. He lived such a holy life that I wanted to be like him, and it turns out, he was Christian. He showed me the way to Jesus. She wanted to be a missionary to show others the way. She wanted to be a light in the sky for others to find Jesus. We are called by Jesus, He said, "go out and teach all nations." We don't have to teach a nation, we can teach one person at a time. As Saint Francis of Assisi said, "preach the gospel always, if necessary use words." By our very lives, people know, Jesus is there. They will come to us and they'll say, "I want some of that." Sometimes we have to be more direct and say, "hey, I'm going to church this morning, would you like to come with me?" Whatever it takes. Give their lives meaning, let them know Jesus. For once in our lives, we'll get to be, a star.

God bless you.