

Epiphany of Isaac Newton: - Many people might have seen the falling apple. Isaac Newton himself might have seen it many times. But, on that particular day as he saw apple falling down from a tree, he had the sudden realization which helped him find the gravitational force.

Epiphany of Archimedes: - He had taken bath in the bathtubs hundreds of times. Many other people had done so. But, on that particular day when Archimedes was taking bath, he discovered something and came out of bathtub almost naked shouting eureka, eureka. What he discovered is known today as 'Archimedes Principle of floatation', which is the basis of all the floating things in water like big ships.

Epiphany of Mother Teresa: - A beggars and destitute and the dying are common sights in the streets of India. Mother Teresa might have seen them many times. But, on that particular day she had the epiphany which changed her whole life. Because of this epiphany an ordinary nun turns to be the most revered lady in the world for serving the poorest of the poor.

Today's Gospel reminds us that if God permitted the Magi –foreigners and pagans –to recognize and give Jesus proper respect as the King of Jews, we should know that there is nothing in our sinful lives that would keep God from bringing us to Jesus. There were three groups of people who reacted to the Epiphany of Christ's birth. The first group, headed by King Herod the Great, tried to eliminate him, the second group, priests and scribes, ignored him and the third group, represented by the shepherds and the Magi, came to adore him.

Now, let's come to the epiphany of three wise men. Bethlehem was full of visitors due to census but, no body discovered the newborn Savior. His coming has been foretold by the prophets many times. Jews had been expecting his coming but, still these three wise men from far, non-Jews were the first to discover him. They had the first Epiphany! Three wise men bent their knees in front of a small babe born in a manger! This epiphany experience completely changed their lives. Gospel writer expresses this change by saying, "they took a different path."

There are numerous manifestations or epiphanies of God in our lives and in the lives of everyone.

Let us open our eyes and ears and all the more our hearts to witness and become part of that epiphany. And once we have the epiphany experience, once we have truly discovered Christ, it should also completely change our lives. We should also take a different path leaving our old path. Just like the three wise men, we also are in a long and difficult journey to have our epiphany experience.

Since the three wise men, were non-Jews, foreigners, still they got the privilege of being the first in having God's manifestation, today's feast of epiphany is also telling us that for God there are no foreigners, no outsiders. From his point of view, all are equally his beloved children. We all, whatever external physical or cultural differences there may be between us, belong to one single family which has one Father. It means that every one of us is a brother and sister to everyone else. There is no room for discrimination of any kind based on nationality, race, religion, class or occupation. The story tells us that God, in the person of Jesus, is reaching out to the whole world. These pagan foreigners went to great lengths to find the King of the Jews and do him homage. The facts of today's story may be vague, but the message is loud and clear

Now, the feast of "The Epiphany of the Lord," tells us that Jesus came not only for the Jews but also for the Gentiles. Paul states this very clearly in the Second Reading of today in his letter to the Ephesians, "...in Christ Jesus, the Gentiles are now co-heirs with the Jews, members of the same body, and sharers of the same promise through the preaching of the Gospel." In other words, God wants everyone to be saved and come to the knowledge of the Truth.

Today also God is revealing to us through various signs and events of our time. We have to try to decipher these signs as the three wise men did and understand the will of God. God is trying to say to us something from the events corona virus pandemic. We need to understand what he is telling us.

And as the three wise men worshiped Jesus in the manger, Let us worship Jesus at Mass, not only on Sundays but also whenever possible on weekdays as well with the gold of our love, the myrrh of our humility and the frankincense of our adoration. We can also worship him, prostrate before him during our monthly first Friday adoration. Let us offer God our very selves, promising Him that we will use His blessings to do good for our fellow men.

Just as the Magi chose another route to return to their homes, let us choose a better way of life, especially at the beginning of this new year.

After having found Jesus, ourselves, we need to lead others also to Jesus. These others could be in your own families, among friends and relatives. We also need to help those missionaries around the world who are trying their level best to make the Christ known to others under difficult circumstances.

In 1929 young Agnes arrived in Calcutta, India, in search of Jesus among the dying and the destitute and it was January 6--the feast of the Epiphany. This young Agnes became Blessed Mother Teresa or soon to be declared Saint Mother Teresa. A group of Catholics from our diocese including three from our parish will be soon visiting the tomb of Mother Teresa to have their own epiphany experience. We all need to have our own epiphany experiences.