

## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

This feast is celebrated every year, even though we do not pay much attention to it. It is celebrated in various parts of the world like the celebration of Christmas and the Three Wise Men, when the children receive their gifts.

“Epiphany” comes from the Greek word “manifestation.” Another way to say it is that God is the creator of the universe, and he “manifests” himself as a child, in a very simple and humble way, to the world. The question I asked during Mass was, “how should I receive this epiphany? Like King Herod or like the Three Wise Men?”

King Herod, an intelligent and astute man, knew what things to say: “Go and carefully find out what there is to know about that child. When you find him, inform me so that I can go and adore him.” He knew and had heard about the Messiah. He was the kind of person who do not want to lose their throne, that do not want to change, that are satisfied with what they have, and want to keep living on their own terms. “This is how I was born, this is how I was raised, and this is who I am.” And if there were something I did not like, then I would simply remove it from my path. This is why Herod killed his wife and two of his children and ordered the mass killing of every child under two years of age in Bethlehem. Everything to secure his power.

The other type of people are like the Three Wise Men, who are always in search of something, who sometimes make mistakes (like seeking King Herod’s help), but are always pursuing and in constant change of place, finding out what God wants to make of them. Once they find Him, they do not say, “all of these years in the desert, with hunger, thirst, heat, and cold to see a child?” Once they found Him, they kneeled, presented the best of them, and returned happily, praising and glorifying God – returned as transformed men.

It is in your hands: Will you be a King Herod or a Wise Man?

Verily, God continues to manifest Himself in this time, in Eucharist. He manifests Himself in your brothers – even your enemies. Personally, I like to visit prisons, where I see Christ in the incarcerated. But, where do you see Him? In your mother-in-law?

We are called to be an Epiphany because we have received Christ in Holy Eucharist and to decipher the many ways in which God continues to manifest Himself. Find out. Whether you want to continue as King Herod or as a Wise Man depends solely on you. God bless you.