

The Epiphany of the Lord – 01/05/2020

The word epiphany is defined as a manifestation of a divine or supernatural being. Sometimes we use it in modern parlance as a revelation of any sort.

Regardless, if an epiphany is going to have any meaning at all then we have to do something positive with it.

The magi certainly made good use of the epiphany that was given to them.

An ancient sermon by Quodvultdeus, a church man from centuries past, said it best.

“A tiny child is born, who is a great king. Wise men are led to him from afar. They come to adore one who lies in a manger and yet reigns in heaven and on earth.”

The wise men sought out the Divine Child and brought him gifts but most importantly they got down on bended knee, paid him homage and worshipped Him.

What a contrast to the reaction of King Herod who slaughtered so many little babies – the Holy Innocents – in

search of the one King. Listen again to the words of the ancient author Quodvultdeus regarding Herod.

“When they – the wise men – tell of one who is born a king, Herod is disturbed. To save his kingdom he resolves to kill him, though if he would have faith in the child, he himself would reign in peace in this life and forever in the life to come.

Why are you afraid, Herod, when you hear of the birth of a king? He does not come to drive you out, but to conquer the devil. But because you do not understand this you are disturbed and in a rage, and to destroy one child whom you seek, you show your cruelty in the death of so many children.

You are not restrained by the love of weeping mothers or fathers mourning the deaths of their sons, nor by the cries and sobs of the children. You destroy those who are tiny in body because fear is destroying your heart. You imagine that if you accomplish your desire you can prolong your own life, though you are seeking to kill Life himself.

... But you, Herod, do not know this and are disturbed and furious. While you vent your fury against the child, you are already paying him homage, and do not know it.”

Today is the Epiphany of the Lord – the second time since our Lord’s birth that he has manifested himself to the gentiles.

The first was to the shepherds today was to the magi but now it is our turn and we too must respond properly.

We don’t need to be afraid of the birth of this king? He came to conquer the devil and free us from sin.

And we certainly don’t have to be perfect we just need to be humble.

I recently heard that when one visits the place of our Lord’s birth in the Holy Land you almost have to get down on your knees to enter.

So let’s not be afraid or too proud to go down on our knees before the King of heaven and earth because whether we choose to or not in the end every knee shall bend in heaven and on earth and worship him.