

WSC REFLECTION GUIDE

Readings: Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13 Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6 Matthew 2:1-12	Solemnity of the Epiphany of our Lord January 3, 2010
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Word:	God's love is glorified in the sonship of Jesus.
Theme:	The sonship of Jesus is manifested upon those who serve and pay Him homage. [Reverence to God]
Promise:	<i>"You are co-heirs, members of the same body and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus."</i> (Eph 3:6)

Reflection:

The Theme for the first week of January is: **The sonship of Jesus is manifested upon those who serve and pay Him homage.** As we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany, we recall how the three magi or wise men from the East, Gentiles at that time, came to acknowledge Jesus as King. They prostrated themselves and did Him homage. Then they opened their coffers and offered their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. (Mt. 2:11b)

Gold, being the king of metals, is the gift for a king. Jesus is truly King but His kingdom is not of this world. He came to serve and not to be served.

Frankincense is a gift for a priest. It was in the temple worship and temple sacrifices that the sweet perfume of frankincense was used. The function of the priest is to open the way to God for men. The Latin word for priest is *pontifex*, which means bridge-builder. The priest is the man who builds a bridge between man and God. That is what Jesus did. He made it possible for men to enter into the very presence of God.

Myrrh is a gift for one who is to die. Myrrh was used to embalm the bodies of the dead. Jesus came into the world to die for our sins. (The Daily Bible Study – The Gospel According to Matthew by William Barclay p. 32)

We are children of God through adoption as St. Paul says in Romans 8: 14-16, ***"For those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. .. you received a spirit of adoption through which we cry, Abba, Father! The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ..."*** And so, like Jesus, we are the beloved son, the beloved daughter of God our Father. Like Jesus, the Son of God, we should be living for God (Rm 6:11b), for we are heirs of the Kingdom of God. Jesus proved that He is the only begotten Son of the Father when He obeyed the Father's will. As sons and daughters of our Heavenly Father, we too should manifest the sonship of Jesus in our lives by imitating the life Jesus lived here on earth.

Jesus, the only Begotten Son of God, is the Servant of Yahweh (Isaiah 49-53) who came to serve; not to be served but to give His life as ransom for others. (Mt 20: 28) We too, as sons and daughters of our heavenly Father should serve. We should serve through love (Gal 5 13) and love entails patience, kindness; not seeking self-interest (1Cor 13:4-7) but considering that after all service to the Lord, we are mere unprofitable servants who have done what we were obliged to do. (Lk. 17:10)

Just as the magi, who according to Barclay, were men of holiness and wisdom (p. 26) we too should pay homage to our Father through our Lord Jesus Christ, with clean hearts. The psalmist says: ***“Who may go up the mountain of the Lord? Who can stand in his holy place? The clean of hand and pure of heart, who are not devoted to idols, who have not sworn falsely. They will receive blessings from the Lord.”*** (Ps 24:3-5). And, St. Paul says: ***“Put to death, then, the parts of you that are earthly; immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and the greed that is idolatry... you must put away: anger, fury, malice, slander, and obscene language out of your mouths.”*** (Col 3: 5-8). For when we do, our homage will be acceptable to God.

And like the three wise men, we too have gifts given by God to be used to serve others. We should continue to use them for our continuing transformation and for the furtherance of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. For Jesus said: ***“The gift you receive, give as a gift.”*** (Mt. 10:7).

As we manifest the sonship of Jesus in our lives by serving and paying Him homage, we become what the Promise of the week says: ***“You are co-heirs, members of the same body and co-partners in the promise in Christ Jesus.”*** (Eph 3:6)

Suggested Personal Reflection Guide:

1. What is my motivation in serving others? In being in community?
2. How do I prepare spiritually before going to the weekly Worship and WSC?

Next Week’s Daily Mass Reading Guide:

January 4, 2010 (Mon):	1 Jn 3:22 - 4:6; Ps 2:7-8, 10-12; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
January 5, 2010 (Tue):	1 Jn 4:7-10; Ps 72:1-4, 7-8; Mk 6:34-44
January 6, 2010 (Wed):	1 Jn 4:11-18; Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13; Mk 6:45-52
January 7, 2010 (Thur):	1 Jn 4:19 - 5:4; Ps 72:1-2, 14, 15, 17; Lk 4:14-22
January 8, 2010 (Fri):	1 Jn 5:5-13; PS 147:12-15, 19-20; Lk 5:12-16
January 9, 2010 (Sat):	1 Jn 5:14-21; Ps 149:1-6, 9; Jn 3:22-30

“Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!”