

Fr. John Sassani
Homily Given January 6, 2008
The Epiphany of the Lord - Liturgical Year A

Do you daydream? I do! I don't know where it takes you, but one of my daydreams takes me to a house with an interior courtyard – a house where the inside is outside and the outside is inside. To have such a house would require a Mega Millions win or a transfer in location. It's only a daydream.

The Magi – foreigners, pagans, Gentiles – whose observations and calculations led them to follow a star from Persia to Israel – a long journey by camel – must have been feeling quite discouraged. Herod and his advisers gave enough information to let them know they were onto something. They got to that dusty village and entered the house of Mary and Joseph. Jews and Gentiles alike were in awe and wonder at the Christchild. Outsiders became insiders, and insiders joined outsiders at the crib side of the child Jesus.

We live in a world of inside being inside and outside being outside: the perennially poor, ethnic profiling, religious intolerance, secular bigotry toward people of faith, hatred and animosity leading to war and terrorism. And yet – Christ gathers people of every race, language, and way of life together in him – outsiders and insiders become one.

The word epiphany means revelation. This epiphany is not just the revelation of who Christ is – but also of who we can become in him – not just personally or individually but as a people, as the whole world. Our hope in Christ is not just about heaven, but about the future – the future of no tears, no more death, no more division. This is God's hope for us.

At the Eucharist, we experience union with Christ and unity in Christ – where inside and outside give way to communion between heaven and earth.

As we gather around the table of the Lord today, may we experience that communion and work for it hope throughout 2008.