

Epiphany 2021
20+C+M+B+21

Dear Brother and Sisters in Christ,

As we begin a new decade together, the call of the Christ to seek and find Him is even more urgent for every human heart. For only in knowing, loving, and serving Christ can we find the meaning of our existence and the fulfillment of our most noble desires. With this in mind, we continue to celebrate the Christmas Season and the 4th most important day in our Catholic Faith, the Epiphany! The Three Wise Men, who were not initially believers themselves, recognized an extraordinary intervention of the unseen God when they made an act of faith and went on a journey to meet the newborn King in Bethlehem. They accepted by faith that God would fulfill the prophecies in the Hebrew scriptures about an eternal king who would be born in a far off land.

One of the prophecies mentioned in the passage from St. Matthew's Gospel was the appearance of the "Star." Just days ago was the occurrence of the coming together of Jupiter and Saturn for the first time in 800 years around Christmas time. Some scholars believe that this was in fact the same astronomical event that occurred around the time of Jesus' birth which has been referred to as the Christmas Star. Pope Benedict in his book on Jesus' birth says that:

“The aforementioned astronomer Ferrari d’Occhieppo has dismissed the theory of supernova. For him, a sufficient explanation of the star of Bethlehem is provided by the conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn in the constellation Pisces, which he believed he could determine with chronological precision. It is important here to note that the planet Jupiter stood for the principal Babylonian god Marduk. Ferrari d’Occhieppo concludes as follows: ‘Jupiter, the star of the highest Babylonian deity, entered its brightest phase when it rose in the evening alongside Saturn, the cosmic representative of the Jewish people’. (*Der Stern von Bethlehem*, p. 52) We need not go into the details. From this planetary encounter, according to Ferrari D’Occhieppo, Babylonian astronomers were able to conclude that there had been a universally significant event: the birth in the land of the Jews of a ruler who would bring salvation.

What are we to make of all this? The great conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn in the sign of Pisces in 7-6 B.C. seems to be an established fact. It could well have pointed astronomers from the Babylonian-Persian region toward the land of the Jews, toward a “king of the Jews”. Exactly how those men came to the conviction that prompted them to set off and led them eventually to Jerusalem and Bethlehem, must remain an open question. The constellation could have set them thinking it could have been the first signal for their outward and inward departure. But it would not have been able to speak to them, had they not already moved in some other way, inwardly moved by the hope of the star that was to rise over Jacob”. (*cf. Num 24:17*) (Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives)

Over the last 9 months or so we have been exploring modern day Catholic prophecy and how it fits with the prophecies of the Bible and other Catholic prophecies throughout the centuries. Christians are always called to read the "signs of the times." If all of the prophecies about the Kingdom of God we have been reading about in these bulletin articles are coming to

pass, is the appearance of the alleged "Christmas Star" just one more sign that it is indeed happening in our time? We can't be sure, but we can repent, prepare, and be ready!

Next week we will introduce a Catholic seer who we have not met in our bulletin articles before.

Everything she has relayed fits with the many other Catholic prophets of our time and through the centuries. For now, here are a few of the recent messages from those we have already introduced (Taken from: *countdowntothekingdom.com*):

Our Lady to Gisella Cardia on December 19th, 2020:

Dear children, thank you for having responded to my call in your hearts. My children, the world is godless, everything is godless. Men, politicians and the mass media have passively accepted what the devil has suggested in order to complete the work of destruction, but you, beloved children, are not alone: remember that we are with you. Children, this singular Christmas, be calm and joyful at the coming of the Savior who, as then, will come in humility. Do not be afraid, approach it in prayer: whoever is in Christ has the certitude that they will not be touched. [1] Be united, children; you will need each other — famine will soon arrive [2] and you will need to be ready to help one another as brothers and sisters.* I love you and console you when you invoke me. Italy will be shaken very strongly: pray! Now I leave you with my motherly blessing in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Our Lady to Gisella Cardia on December 22nd, 2020:

My children, thank you for being here in prayer. Children, my little ones, I, your Mother, am always with you. Remember that this is the worst time that humanity has ever known, but in spite of everything, this is a time of Blessings; the little flock will be blessed in order to make them strong when facing any event whatsoever. Look deep into your hearts and you will find the joy of a renewed life, the strength that will even make evil flee before you. The Lord has so many gifts planned for you; rejoice at the arrival of the Savior. Pray for America, because clashes between politicians and between brothers will be very strong. Be careful: soon there will be avalanches. Now I leave you with my Holy blessing in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Our Lady Queen of Peace to Pedro Regis on December 22nd, 2020:

Dear children, let yourselves be guided by the Action of the Holy Spirit. Be obedient to the Lord's Call. The things of the world separate you from God. Be attentive. Seek first the Treasures of Heaven. Take care of your spiritual life. Examine your conscience and remove from your lives everything that keeps you from the path of salvation. I am your Mother and I love you. Listen to Me. I have come from Heaven to lead you to Heaven. Do not allow your freedom to be an obstacle to the Action of God in your lives. Go forward with courage. You will yet have long years of great persecution. Seek strength in prayer, in the Gospel and in the Eucharist. Those who remain faithful to the end will receive great reward from the Lord. This is the message that I give you today in the name of the Most Holy Trinity. Thank you for having allowed Me to gather you here once more. I bless you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen. Be at peace.

Additionally, on this feast day we are encouraged to bless our homes for the year with blessed chalk, exchange a small gift of some kind, give to the poor and those in need, and continue our Christmas celebrations in our homes by placing the Three Wise Men into the Nativity as a reminder that this was the day on which the Son of God manifested Himself visibly to non-Jewish persons (who represented all of us) for the first time. The Christmas season continues through next Sunday with the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord. It also unofficially extends to February 2, The Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, which is Sunday this year. We may consider keeping our Nativity Scene on display in our homes or yards until then.

Lastly, let's pray that all Catholics find a new devotion to St. Joseph during this "Year of St. Joseph." May we, like the Magi and St. Joseph, respond to the authentic dreams, prophecies, and truth of God's Word and all Catholic Teaching through which the Father's will is revealed to His beloved sons and daughters! May Jesus bless you and your loved ones with His Peace and Joy in this New Year of 2021 as we make haste to adore the newborn King on Epiphany!

In the Light from Light Who is Jesus,
Fr. Derda, Fr. Steve, Deacon Russ, Deacon Ed