

### **January 04, 2015 Epiphany Homily**

My brothers and sisters, sometime in the year 1968, a small group of four young Englishmen traveled to India on a spiritual pilgrimage. There they met a Hindu holy man, the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi. The names of the four young men: John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr. They were better known as "the Beatles", an internationally renowned rock and roll band.

By their own admission, they were restless souls, seeking peace for their anxious and troubled souls. Upon their return to their native England, George Harrison was interviewed by an enterprising reporter, who inquired about their unexpected journey to a far off place. In the course of the interview, George Harrison remarked, "We are the Beatles. We have all the money you could ever dream of. We have all the fame you could ever wish for...but it isn't love, it isn't health and it isn't peace inside, is it?"

The gospel reading for today's feast of the Epiphany (Mt.2:1-12) relates the journey of the Wise Men. They each set out on the way which leads them to the Child in Bethlehem. What kind of men were they? Men with a restless heart, who were driven by a relentless quest for God. In all likelihood, they were filled with expectation. Not satisfied with their wealth and respectable place in society, they were looking for something greater. So they left everything behind in order to follow the star. (Mt.2:2). The Wise Men sought God and were ultimately on their way towards Him. In truth, they were seekers after God. A two fold light guided them: the aforementioned star and sacred scripture. (Mt.2:5-6).

Epiphany is a mystery of light... symbolically suggested by the star that guided the Magi on their journey. We are reminded that the true source of light is Christ Himself. This may explain why the infant Jesus is bathed in light whenever he is depicted by many of the world's greatest artists.

What lessons can we derive from today's feast? First, we learn of the "restlessness" of the Lord Himself! As Pope Benedict writes, "He (God) follows us even to the crib, even to the cross; Second, the importance of bearing witness to our faith. Anyone who discovers Christ must lead others to Him; Third, the mystery of "the house". The Evangelist Matthew writes: "and going into the house they saw the child with his mother and falling to their knees they did him homage" (Mt.2:11). For many of the Church Fathers, the "house" represents the church. In order to find the savior one must enter the house, the place of worship. There will we discover His mysterious Presence!; Fourth, we must identify ourselves as pilgrims on a journey. Christ guides all of us. He leads us out into the Promised Land!

Finally, in the Eucharist which we celebrate today, a light shines! Christ both reveals and conceals his glory. By our participation in the Mass, we, too, are bathed in light because of Christ's desire to dwell in each one of us! "Christ", writes Pope Benedict "has the power to grant the greatest and most profound joy to the heart of man". For those of us who experience this ineffable joy, let us give praise to the Lord on this wonderful feast! Amen.