

**Epiphany**  
**January 7, 2018**

It's exciting to go on a journey, especially if it is far away. There is always adventure and new things to see and do. There is always the unexpected and the unknown. A long journey is not for the faint of heart. When you go through unfamiliar territory, often dangerous and foreboding, you risk everything. If you get sick or injured, or if you lose your money, your passport, or if your transportation breaks down, all of these things leave you at the mercy of an environment in which you are powerless.

The journey of the Magi has all the elements of a fantastic journey. Their journey is emblematic of our spiritual quest and our search for meaning and purpose. It is the story of our search for love. We are reaching beyond our grasp, beyond the stars, for a new life, new excitement, and the re-ignition of the fire within our soul.

Often we are not sure what we are looking for but we know that it is powerful and great. The urge to rise above our mediocrity and listlessness is unrelenting and filled with anxiousness. Our desire for new life bewilders our dreams.

A very important part of the story of the three Kings are the gifts they bring. This is an important part of our story as well. Be aware of the priceless nature of the gift you bring. Your own personality with all of its foibles and quirks, with the awesome deep simmering in your soul, is a gift far more valuable than the most priceless pearl.

As we conclude this Christmas season and begin a New Year, make it your resolve to rediscover your deepest dreams and hopes. Come and meet the Holy, the one with unspeakable joy. He has always been there. The adventure is within your heart and soul. Nurture that which is spiritual and it will permeate every aspect of your life.

I admit that I am a dreamer. My grade school teachers used to get on my case about daydreaming. I haven't changed a bit. To this day I am attracted to things that are beyond us and are mysterious and seem impossible. I am convinced that our dreams drive us. Dream big and you will live big. I

see contemplative prayer as directed daydreaming, daydreaming about God and with God. The solemnity of the epiphany places the star before our eyes. It is the culmination of all of our dreams. That brightness can only be followed by those willing to make the journey and offer their gift.

By their very nature dreams are ephemeral, often whimsical. They have a reputation of being naïve and devoid of reality. Take your dreams out of the realm of wishful thinking and actually set out on the journey to make them real. That's what the search of God is all about. It is the process of taking him out of the clouds and discovering the intense fire of life that is within you. You are a temple of God and God lives within you and is active and working in you. This new year, nurture your inner life. Set out on this risky journey and don't forget to bring your priceless gift.