

# WORD FROM THE PASTOR

## OUR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY TO DISCOVER THE BEAUTY AND DEPTH OF OUR FAITH



Today is Epiphany Day; today is the day of Calvary... and today is like Easter day! The drama playing out today is not tragic. The end is not fatal. The lights of Epiphany prefigure those of Easter morning. The joy of Christmas is the same as that of Good Friday and Easter Day. It is the joy of God's children who know their Savior has come to save them.

The mages had to undertake a whole, haphazard, uncertain route, for which they had no insurance Epiphany is the day when they left their home, their country, their universe familiar to the search and discovery of the one who matters most.

A lot more people than one would believe live a true religious quest. Particularly, all those contemporaries - that is, those we know, members perhaps of our own families - who have massively distanced themselves from religious practice. An entire generation is no longer joining us in worship and surrendering to God. Why is there such a massive break from tradition? This is not the place, here, to answer that question, if at least we could.

But the breakdown does not end the religious search. To the people of whom we speak, this quest can be painful, abused, marked by nostalgia and regret, powerlessness above all: how to renew with a life of faith and a life of the Church? It's insurmountable often. What effort it would take, and what companionship they would need from their Christian brothers. They can however continue their research, with their own means, with the help of what they harvest jades. They can put on acts of Faith and Love for God. Let us ourselves, be faithful to the Lord, Who on this day celebrate His epiphany, be aware of and rejoice in our belief, in our Church, which gives us Faith in its beautiful things of our creed practices.

But let our joy not lack gravity: they consider us "practicing" our religion and celebrating it on behalf of those who do not celebrate it, as substituting for them, as uniting them to the act of our prayer, as representing them, as being their own ascending prayer towards heaven. That heaven mobilizes our search and theirs, infinitely, of the Eternal and Good God.

Dear brothers and sisters, on this Epiphany Day, keep in mind the Christian joy that belongs to those who rejoice in the Birth and Manifestation of the Lord. May our joy radiate in charity. But at the beginning of the year, pushed by the mages, we decidedly took the road to the Cross. Long live the Hope of Health! And there, open our gaze to the empty tomb, that uphold our faith in the Resurrection.

May our hearts be firmly established in Faith, Hope and Charity. If I had to make a good resolution this beginning of the year, I would choose to keep our lives more Christ-centered. May our thoughts, words and actions take their source from Him and lead us to Him.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2025

***Very Rev. Fr. Lucien Eugene Pierre Ph.D., Pastor, VF  
Dean of Northwest Broward of the Archdiocese Miami – January 5, 2025***