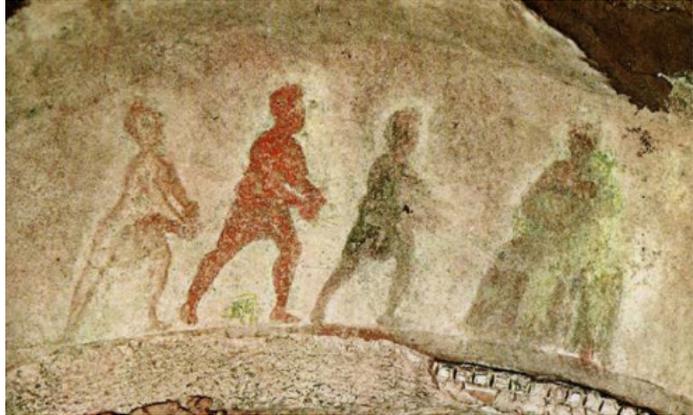


## Epiphany Retreat 2019



Dear members of the Holy Child family,

Many of us have attended the annual conventions of the CTSA (Catholic Theological Society of America). Each year, the president-elect chooses a theme for the convention and is responsible to organize the entire event. Founded in 1946, the CTSA has had an annual convention each year where theological research, CTSA business, career opportunities, new publications, etc. are shared.

In 2018, Paul Lakeland, president-elect wrote:

*The theme of the 2018 CTSA convention will be “Grace at Work in the World.” To my astonishment, and perhaps yours, “grace” has never been the theme of a CTSA convention, and so—long overdue—its time has come.*

I thought of this as I began to ponder this year’s Epiphany retreat. “We have never had a retreat on the theme of The Story of the Magi.”

So, for the Epiphany retreat of 2019 I am suggesting that we spend our days pondering some of the concepts that emerge as important in the account of these strange fellows . . . from the Scriptural and theological perspectives and see where this takes us . . . today and for the future.

What is offered here is a theological reflection to be used in various ways. Since many of you use these materials with a small group or alone, the usual indications of “leader,” “reader,” etc. are not used. In the past, what was planned for each day was a series of prayer services on a theme. This is a less structured piece with texts, commentary, discussion/reflection questions that connect a theme; it can be enhanced with your choices of music and symbols and mostly enriched with the sharing of insights that come to you.

It is curious that a story, like that of the Magi, with no historical foundation and found in only one Gospel has been the source of much reflection in spirituality; using great imagination, themes such as journey, searching, treasures and gifts and many more can be found. You may well want to go in one of those directions.

After many trials and various drafts, I have chosen to focus on the main elements of the initial question of the wise men, “Where is the infant king of the Jews?” (Jn 2, 2). Thus you will find in these pages suggestions for theological reflection on “The Jewish People: contemporary spiritual ancestors” and “The kingdom of God: the main message of Jesus and its meaning for today.”

The image at the heading of each day’s resources is the first extant depiction of the three kings, found today in the Catacomb of St. Priscilla, Rome.

However you decide to spend reflection time around the feast of the Epiphany, let us be joined in prayer and concern for our church.

Happy Epiphany to all,

Tobie Tondi, SHCJ