

Fr. Romeo Evangelista Homily
Sunday, January 2, 2022
Epiphany
Cycle C

Ann Sullivan approached her deaf and blind student Helen Keller saying, “Today I am going to teach you about God.” Helen signed to her “Good, I’ve been thinking about him for a long time.” Ex-Beatle George Harrison, in an interview shortly before his death said, “Everything else in life can wait but my search for God cannot wait, it has to happen right now.” Larry King said, “I have a lot of respect for true people of faith. I have always searched. I envy people who have it. I just can’t make the leap for myself.” All three of them are seeking... searching for God.

What is it that we are seeking?

Everybody is seeking or searching for something. That is why Google is one of the most profitable companies in the world. People go to Google every day to search for information about an astounding array of subjects.

- People are searching for news, articles, stories.
- People are searching for gossips about their favorite celebrities.
- People are searching for information about a specific model of gadget or car they are considering buying.

In a deeper sense, maybe we are looking for something that will fill the emptiness in our lives. We try to ‘fill’ our emptiness due to loneliness and isolation by looking for companionship and partnership. We try to ‘fill’ our emptiness due to boredom and restlessness by indulging ourselves in worldly pleasures. We try to ‘fill’ our emptiness due to lack of a sense of fulfillment by trying to achieve, accomplish and succeed more, or by being busy in all sort of activities and projects. We learn – hopefully soon enough – that the things we try “to fill” our lives with would only leave us emptier.

What is it that you are searching for?

Today’s gospel passage talks about the search of the Magi. These Magi were knowledgeable in philosophy and skilled in medicine and natural sciences. They were searchers after truth – astrologers in a time when astrology was a respected science. They were wise enough to know that they needed to be seeking...they needed direction... they needed to be following the One above them. So, they came seeking... searching...“Where is the newborn king of the Jews?”

Wise men and women still follow... seeking a Savior. There is a hunger in our hearts that is never satisfied until we at last have found our connection with God. It is in every human soul. We spend much of our life "searching for" something or someone. We may be searching for the best way to earn the biggest money – and, of course, to get rich and be able to buy everything we want. We may be searching for the solution to our problem, the cure to our illness, answer to our question. We may be searching for the sense of meaning, purpose and fulfillment in life.

These kinds of 'searching' are just indications of the restlessness, dissatisfaction or emptiness that we deeply experience. All of us search for meaning and purpose in our lives. We look for someone or something that will make our lives better, greater and more fulfilling. We know very well that it is only God who can fulfill our greatest needs; it is only God who can satisfy the deepest desires of our hearts. As St. Augustine puts it – in his oft-quoted words: "Our hearts are made for God, and they will not rest, until they rest in God." Another writer puts it more poetically: "Our hearts have a God-shaped hole in them, that only God can fill."

Every day, especially when we celebrate the Eucharist, the Lord is offering us an opportunity to appease our restless hearts, to fulfill our greatest needs, and to satisfy our deepest desires. Let us take this opportunity. Let us respond to the Lord's invitation.

Amen