

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD
RACCOLTA #130

At Thy birth, O Jesus, a star of wondrous splendor shone forth in the Eastern skies, and led to Bethlehem the Magi, those envoys of far-distant, pagan peoples, even as the Angel, bathed in heavenly light, was summoning to Thy manger the shepherds, as representatives of the chosen people. For the Gentiles as well as the Jews, must needs recognize in Thee, a poor and helpless Infant, the almighty King of Ages, the Saviour of mankind. Neither scepter nor diadem disclosed Thy kingly state; no sweet harmonies, no hosts of Angels mustering round Thy crib revealed Thy divine nature; but the star, shining above Thy wretched stable, pointed to the heavens, the earth, and the entire universe as Thine absolute possessions; even as the Magi, who at the inspiration of Thy grace, coming promptly from afar, caring naught for dangers, overcoming every difficulty, and embracing every sacrifice, reached Thy feet and kneeling down in reverence offered Thee their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Thirsting for God, they had gone eagerly in search of Thee, and Thou didst reveal Thyself to them in a wonderful manner, while still in Thy crib, filling them with ineffable joys and transforming them into the first messengers of Thy glories to the peoples of the Orient.

After the appearance of the star, which sufficed to render the Magi Thy ardent followers, with what marvels, O Jesus, didst Thou demonstrate Thy divinity! Yet what darkness still overshadows our poor minds! How reluctantly our wills give way to the loving impulses of Thy grace, even when they do not openly resist Thee! Give us, therefore, O Jesus, the strength to reply ever promptly and generously to Thy call, and grant that the divine light of faith, which was enkindled by Thee within us while still in our cradles, may ever accompany us on the road of life, until, blessed at last in Heaven, we shall be able to fix our eyes upon Thee in the light of glory.

The faithful, who devoutly recite this prayer on the solemn Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord, are granted: An indulgence of 3 years; A Plenary Indulgence on the usual conditions (S. P. Ap., May 4, 1941).

JESUS CALLED THE THREE WISE MEN TO HIS CRIB

RACCOLTA #128

O divine infant, who, after the wonders of Thy birth in Bethlehem, wishing to extend to the whole world Thine infinite mercy, didst call the Wise Men by heavenly inspiration to Thy crib, which was thus converted into a throne of royal grandeur, and didst graciously receive those holy men, who were obedient to the divine call and hastened to Thy feet, acknowledging Thee and worshiping Thee as the Prince of Peace, the Redeemer of mankind, and the very Son of God; ah, renew in us the proofs of Thy goodness and almighty power; enlighten our minds, strengthen our wills, and inflame our hearts to know Thee, to serve Thee, and to love Thee in this life, meriting thus to enjoy Thee eternally in the life to come.

An indulgence of 500 days (S. P. Ap., July 14, 1924 and Jan. 15, 1935).