

January 7, 2018

What do you think draws people to the Church today: power or tenderness? How is Pope Francis' statement below like the "star" of the first Epiphany?

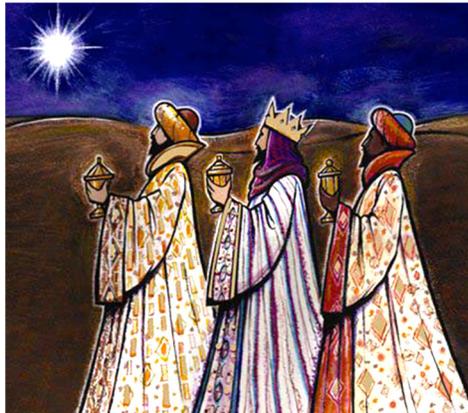
I would like to say to those who feel far from God and from the Church — I would like to say respectfully — to all those who are fearful or indifferent: the Lord is also calling you to be a part of his people and he does so with deep respect and love. The Lord is calling you. The Lord is seeking you. The Lord is waiting for you. The Lord does not proselytize, he loves, and this love seeks you, waits for you, you who at this moment do not believe or are far away. And this is the love of God.

Pope Francis, Angelus — St. Peter's Square, January 6, 2014

In spite of their lack of all worldly advantages, the shepherds, in fact, outranked King Herod and all the others. They were by the side of the Messiah first, and they didn't have to figure out for themselves where his birth place was, either.

The shepherds may have been poor and simple, but they were trusting and open-hearted. And so they knew Christ Jesus was born in a manger in Bethlehem that cold winter night ... because they heard the angels sing.

Eleanor Stump, St. Louis University
(Sunday Website)
St. Louis, MO



¿Que piensan ustedes, que es lo que hoy atrae a las personas a la Iglesia: poder o sensibilidad?
¿Cómo es la declaración de Papa Francisco aquí abajo como la "estrella" de la primera Epifanía?

Me gustaría decirle a aquellos que se sienten lejos de Dios, y de la Iglesia – Me gustaría decir respetuosamente – a todos aquellos quienes son temerosos o indiferentes: el Señor los está llamando para ser parte de este pueblo, y él lo hace con profundo respeto y amor. El Señor esta llamándoles. El Señor esta buscándoles. El Señor está esperando por ustedes. El Señor no convierte, el ama, y este amor te busca, espera por ti, a ti que en este momento no crees o estas lejos. Y este es el amor de Dios.

Papa Francisco, Angelus — Basilica de San Pedro, Enero 6, 2014

A pesar de su escasez de todas las ventajas del mundo, los pastores, en efecto, superan en rango al rey Herodes y a todos los otros. Ellos estaban del lado del Mesías, y ellos no tuvieron que figurar el lugar de su nacimiento.

Tal vez, los pastores fueron pobres y sencillos, pero ellos estuvieron confiados y con un corazón abierto. Y ellos sabían que, Cristo Jesús había nacido en un pesebre en Belén aquella noche fría de invierno ... porque ellos escucharon a los ángeles cantar.

Eleanor Stump, St. Louis University
(Sunday Website)
St. Louis, MO

AREA NEWS



IT'S NEXT WEEKEND! The *Roe v. Wade Rally* is on Sunday, **January 14th** (2018), **2:30pm**, at the Pioneer Courthouse Square in Portland! Featured speaker is Archbishop Sample. The K of C will be hosting a bus for the trip — no set cost, but a free-will offering appreciated. The bus will be at South Eugene High School parking lot, boarding at **11:30am**, and leaving promptly at **12 noon**, arriving back in Eugene approx. 6:30pm. Questions? Contact Eric Walter at 541-554-2074 ... dress warmly and bring a sack lunch. No reservations necessary, but seats are on a first come basis.

WE HAVE GUESTS ARRIVING!

The Interfaith Emergency Shelter is at St. Mark **January 22-29**, and volunteers are needed. Sign-ups will be in the vestibule after Masses — drop by the table to see how you can help out with the tasks involved in giving shelter to our less fortunate neighbors, and living out the Gospel of Jesus.



CARMELITE AUXILIARY — The Auxiliary will meet on the 2nd Monday, **January 8th, 10:00am**, at the Carmel of Maria Regina (87609 Green Hill Rd. Eugene), in the library. Questions? Call Luellen at 541-915-5342.

FAITH SERIES: CATECHISM THROUGH THE YEAR

WAR AND CHURCH TEACHING ...

Second Samuel details the many military exploits of King David (2 Sm 8:1-14), who was divinely appointed as commander of God's people (1 Sm 13:14). Other biblical books tell how God sometimes gave instructions for the Israelites to go to war (Jgs 1:1-2). In light of such passages, it is difficult to justify a strictly pacifist position — that is, the stance that war is always forbidden to God's people.

Christian pacifist communities often insist that the New Testament standard replaces the Old Testament example in this regard. They cite, for example, Jesus' gospel command to "offer no resistance to one who is evil" (Mt 5:39), and his warning that "all who take the sword will perish by the sword" (Mt 26:51-54).

Nevertheless, the New Testament also contains St. Paul's statement that the civil state "does not bear the sword without purpose; it is the servant of God to inflict wrath on the evildoer" (Rom 13:4). The natural law allows for self-defense, and Scripture commands us to defend and "rescue the lowly and poor; [and] deliver them from the hand of the wicked" (Ps 82:4). In this light, Christians have reasonably argued that sometimes war is justifiable — in fact, that justice and charity may demand our engagement in war to defend both our own people and the innocent victims of aggressors in other nations.

As the *Catechism* teaches, then, on occasion war can, indeed, be just, and public authorities can "impose on citizens the obligations necessary for national defense". But that being said, "the strict conditions for legitimate defense by military force require rigorous consideration" (CCC 2310 & 2309—emphasis in the original). For instance, all other means to resolve the issue must have proven futile (CCC 2309 for summary of conditions).

Meanwhile, the Church urges all people, especially governments, to work for peace — not just the avoidance of war, or the uneasy balance of power between adversaries, but the creation of just conditions that lead to social and political tranquility..... "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God" (Mt. 5:9).

RECOMMENDED READING: Excerpt taken from The NEW Catholic Answer Bible

Nm 21:14 · Jgs 4:4-16 · Ps 20:8; 29:11; 34:15; 46:9-10; 55:22; 68:31; 120:6-7; 122:6-7; 144:1 · Prv 12:20; 20:18 · Eccl 3:8 · Is 2:4; 9:4-6; 57:19; 60:17 · Zec 9:10 · Mt 24:6 · Mk 13:7 · Lk 21:9 · Rom 14:19 · Jas 3:18 · & Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) Nos. 2263-2267 · 2302-2317 · 2321 · 2327-2330 ·