

January 2020

### **Do your Magi move?**

Many families unpack their crèche days (or weeks!) before Christmas and part of the routine set-up procedure is to unpack the Magi as well. They will not “arrive” for some time so they are placed at some distance from the manger. Over the days and weeks of Advent and Christmas, they slowly make their way across the table, or the mantle, or the room. In fact, I have been to several parishes where the three Magi are placed somewhere in the church when the crèche is first put out for display and there too, the figures slowly make their way through the church to arrive at the feet of Jesus on the great feast of Epiphany.

Holy Mother Church provides us with this feast, placed where it is, as a lasting image that moves us from Christmas to be a people who imitate the Magi. Specifically, the Magi on the move – following the star, seeking the King – unrelenting in their journey until finding the One they seek.

What at first glance seems like a child-like reenactment of the events of Christmas using dolls is actually a profound invitation to be a people of action – a people of faith constantly moving forward.

Individually and as a church family it is sometimes hard to remain committed to the journey. There are many obstacles, setbacks, doubts. I’m sure the Magi’s journey was no different. Surely there were days when the Magi questioned themselves and each other, the journey is so long, perhaps we should just stop and return to our own country. For the grace of us all, strangers in a strange country, they persisted.

And above all, an aspect that we can perhaps miss is the value of journeying with companions. The commitment to be a person of action and movement is of course a commitment to be on the journey with others. Once again, looking at the figures from the crèche moving toward the manger, we can see them moving as a “bunch.” Not on their own but sticking together to help and support each other.

Perhaps this year, I’ll do something different. I’m going to keep those three figures unpacked and place them somewhere around the house to continuously remind me to be a person on the move. Unrelenting in my journey seeking the One whose coming changed me and the whole world – together with my companions in our family of faith.

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