



Some Thoughts for January, 2023

By Marge Loenser:

Well, happy New Year, 2023! God's blessings to all. We begin a new liturgical year-- A cycle One. On January 6 we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord. I looked up the meaning of "the" Epiphany and it is a feast day that celebrates God becoming Incarnate in Jesus Christ. It is also a day we remember the visit of the Magi. Two years ago, I read a book written by Fr. Dwight Longenecker: *The Mystery of the Magi*. It was very interesting. Father did a lot of research and he believes the Magi, were not from as far away as earlier thought, but from the court of the Nabatean King of Petra, which was a city in southern Jordan which is a lot closer than Persia (ancient area of Iran). And get this, he reasons since they were from Arabia, they probably rode to Bethlehem on stallions, not camels! He had an epiphany! But just try to change all those Christmas cards and nativity scenes!

The 4th and 5th celebrate two great American saints: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and St. John Neumann. St. Elizabeth, a former Episcopalian, founded the first Catholic schools in the United States. John Neumann, also a pioneer in children's catholic education, founded the first Catholic diocesan school system in the United States. St. Elizabeth and St. John please pray for all our school systems, as parents struggle and fight for their right to have their voices heard as to the content and sway of the curriculum.

On the 26th we celebrate St. Timothy and St. Titus. St. Timothy (from the letter or epistle to Timothy from St. Paul) was from Lystra or Derbe in Asia Minor. His mother was a Jewish convert and his father was Greek. He met the apostle Paul during his second missionary journey and became Paul's companion and missionary company along with Silas. St. Titus (from the letter to Titus from St. Paul) was also a missionary with St. Paul. The letter describes the requirements and duties of elders and bishops.

May our Blessed Lord Jesus, through His most Holy Mother, Mary, bless you in 2023 with all the graces you can hold and with good health and joy in your heart.

Love,
Marge



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