



Monreale January 6th 2025

The epiphany is the celebration of the total offering of our life to Jesus Christ to whom we must offer the incense of our faith and our prayer, recognizing him as our God, the gold of our love and our service, recognizing him as our King who reigns from the Cross, the myrrh of our sacrifice recognizing him as our Redeemer who saved us with his passion and death from eternal death.

The Epiphany is the feast of hope, if by hope we mean that of finding after a long and tiring journey the great joy that the Magi felt in the encounter with Baby Jesus, who with his smile and his tears reveals to us the true face of God: a God who becomes our traveling companion who helps us overcome the hell that we build for ourselves with our selfishness, which then multiplies on a social level with terrorism, the wars that arouse hatred and misery.

Like the wise men who got carried away by the desire for truth and by the discovery of the novelty of a child God, we are called to walk behind the star of the Word of God to believe, to believe to love, to love to adore, to adore to offer one's life as a gift to Jesus present in every person eager for bread, health, company, affection and to orient our path on the path of truth, authentic freedom, justice, peace and love.

+ Michele Pennisi Archbishop Emeritus of Monreale and Grand Ecclesiastical Prior of the Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem.