



## The Sisters of St. Thomas Aquinas

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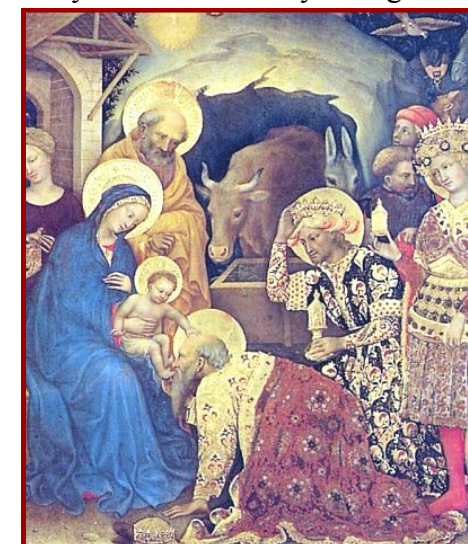
*Angelica - Winter 2014*

*The Sisters of St. Thomas Aquinas*



Dear Reader,

The appearance of a star upon the horizon arouses the dark souls of the three Kings of the Orient. These chosen Gentiles immediately embark upon a quest to follow the heavenly call across many foreign lands. At last, the heavenly light leads the weary travelers to Bethlehem's Stable. Upon entering this poor dwelling, the Magi bow down before the Divine Infant, offering gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh; and, in return for their faithful submission to the guidance of God, receive in the name of all Gentiles the manifestation of the Divine Mysteries.



Just as the Star of Bethlehem appeared as a visible guide for the Magi; so a star, though invisible, often arises upon the horizon of our souls. It is the hidden light of grace, the interior inspiration to give one's self more generously to the service of God and to live a life of more intimate union with Him. Like the Star of the Magi, it is an invitation to undertake a hard and tedious journey, but one which is fully recompensed when the destination is reached.



On the twentieth of November, two of our postulants responded to such an invitation. After having sampled the life of the religious for a year, they undertook to vest themselves in the religious habit and assumed the white veil of the novice. Thus began for them the period of formation called the novitiate, which will last a year and one day. This time of formation will be spent in learning the obligations of the Religious state and in practicing the life of the Vows. It is particularly during this year that the religious vocation is tested, tried, and proved. May the heavenly star of grace lead these novices to the completion of their novitiate, that they may offer, in the making of profession, their Vows to the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Now, let us again turn our attention to the holy Magi who, having arrived at the Stable, reap the reward for their faithful correspondence to the Star's heavenly invitation. And what an unsurpassable reward! To receive the blessings of the Holy Family, the revelation of the Divine Mysteries, the incomparable and gratuitous Treasure of the Faith!

The soul in religion who faithfully corresponds to the Divine call receives a like reward. She receives permanent membership into God's religious family, where all support and assist her in the way of perfection. She is united with Christ and enjoys a closer participation in His Life through the Vows of Religion: Poverty causes all her earthly concerns for honor, wealth, and riches to disappear, so that concern for the honor



and glory of God alone remains; Chastity empties her heart of every earthly affection, that it may be filled with the Love of the Heavenly Bridegroom alone; lastly, Obedience conforms her will so entirely, that the Divine Will seemingly acts in its stead. Can any joy of earth or worldly pleasure compare to such a reward? Well has Christ said that she shall “possess a hundredfold” even in this life.



On this past twenty-first of November, the feast of the Presentation of the Virgin Mary, four Sisters of our Congregation prostrated themselves before the all-Merciful Savior, for whom, like the Magi, they had so long been seeking, to possess the reward of their labors. Kneeling before the raised Sacred Host, they pronounced their Vows and received into their souls the Divine Benefactor. One of these Sisters made temporary profession, which will last for three years. The remaining three made perpetual profession of Vows. These souls are now His chosen spouses for all eternity. May they constantly safeguard this precious gift, even as the Magi faithfully preserved all their lives the supernatural gift of Faith, which they received from the Holy Infant in the Manger.

Let us thank God for having given souls the grace of a religious vocation, which never ceases to keep and to guide them in their state. Let us pray that all such souls adhere faithfully to this heavenly call. Further, let us never cease to pray that God, for the sake of His Church, may continue to bestow this gratuitous gift of a vocation upon the souls of the youth.

Let us be mindful, on this Feast of the Epiphany, that we, whatever the vocation in which we find ourselves, are called like the Holy Magi. “Be ye perfect as also your heavenly Father is perfect” are the words addressed to all by Christ Himself. The Merciful God repeatedly sends His heavenly lights to each of us, urging us to further generosity in carrying out this precept. Let us correspond as the Magi who set out with such promptness and faithfulness on their holy quest to seek God. Our fidelity and generosity will reap boundless spiritual rewards in this life and, at the closing of our lives, the ultimate and unending reward of heaven.

*We wish all our readers a holy Christmas season and a blessed New Year.*

In Jesus through Mary,  
The Sisters of St. Thomas Aquinas



*Srs. Mary Theresa of Lisieux, Mary Margaret Alacoque, Mary John de Brebeuf*

*Srs. Mary Peter Julian Eymard, Mary Imelda, Maria*

*Srs. Mary Anthony of Padua, Mary Theresa of Avila, Mary Gemma Galgani*

*Srs. Mary Joseph, Mary Magdalene, Mary Francis de Sales*



The Sisters of St. Thomas Aquinas invite those young ladies who are at least sixteen years of age and interested in a vocation to the religious state to attend a

### Vocations Week

in order to sample the life of a religious and to acquire a deeper understanding of the religious life

Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
through  
Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015

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