

portions of the cake were broken off to be offered to the Infant Jesus and to Mary in the persons of the poor who on that day also rejoiced at the triumph of the poor and humble King . . . »

But let us return to the star that appeared to the Magi. This star has always been considered the symbol of our vocation to the faith. In fact the three Magi did not belong to the Jewish people ; they were Gentiles, that is pagans. When they were called by the star to the light of the Gospel all the Gentiles were deemed to have been called with them, as the Jews were called in the persons of the shepherds.

Holy Church gives us clearly to understand this in the Collects of the Mass for Epiphany when it says that on that day God revealed his only Son to the Gentiles. The same thought evidently inspired the selection of the Epistle. It is a passage from Isaias in which the prophet calls upon the Church, the true Jerusalem, to contemplate the magnificent spectacle offered to it : all the nations in motion and turning to her. (Is. LX)

In reminding us of our vocation to the faith, the festival of this day therefore recalls to our minds to what an extent we are indebted to the divine goodness for so great a favor. That is not all. The star, the miraculous light sent to the Magi makes us think of two other lights that every Christian should follow in order to safely reach the abode of eternal beatitude.

The first of these lights is the *Teaching Church*. This light is not visible to two or three only but to all without exception. God himself has set it like a beacon on the highest mountain in the world, the mountain of the Vatican. Thus this celestial light, *lumen in cælo* reaches us through the medium of those who are to us the lawful interpreters of the Vicar of Jesus Christ. To believe the Church, to be guided by her teaching, in a word to walk in her light, such are the duties of every Christian.

Unfortunately in every age there have been men who have preached doctrines dictated, not by the spirit of truth but by pride and by licence. They have given birth to all the heresies which like so many false beacons have misled the imprudent. Alas ! at present as formerly and still more so perhaps, the