

Eastern Church was one of the three solemn Festivals at which the Sacrament of Baptism was administered.

In the Western Church the Festival has always commemorated the guiding of the Magi to Christ by the miraculous appearance of a star in the heavens.

Other circumstances of our Lord's early ministry have been connected with the Epiphany.

The miraculous guidance can only be accepted as the plain statement of which Scripture has presented to us the record. What it was we know not; whether it will return with a periodicity connected with Man's spiritual hopes we know not. The occurrence of such a marvel can hardly be called a difficulty, when the whole of our religion has been established by events that are altogether beyond the ordinary powers of nature to bring about. We can only accept the account with reverence.

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### THE CHURCH A DIVINE BODY.

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THE *Church Advocate*, of Indianapolis, gives an excellent statement of the Divine origin of the Church: "It is a maxim of political science that the only way to preserve a principle or idea is to embody it in an institution. Liberty, for example, does not spring from nor is it insured by the Declaration of Independence; it is only safe when it is enshrined in living institutions.

"This law holds true in all the departments of life and nowhere is it so emphatically true as in religion. The great Dr. Johnson says, in his life of Milton: "To be of no church is dangerous, Religion, of

which the rewards are distant, and which is animated by faith and hope, will glide by degrees out of the mind, unless it be reinvigorated reimpresed by external ordinances, by stated call to worship, and by the salutary influence of example."

"Now, Jesus Christ came to earth, let us suppose as many do, to establish nothing but a sentiment or an idea. He knew our nature because He had it; this being so, is it likely that He would be willing to leave that idea to struggle for recognition among men enforced simply by His three years' preaching, which had been heard by a mere handful of people.?

"It seems too plain for argument that if Christ wished His principle to be a power in the world, the first thing He would do would be to organize an institution to embody that principle, and by its life and work to spread it over the world and force it in upon the human mind. We believe He did organize such an institution—His Church."

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### HOLD UP YOUR RECTOR'S HANDS.

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Do not fill his hands with heavy burdens by letting him have all the activities of the church, secular and spiritual left to his efforts to push forward. The very best way to help the rector is to see that everything not belonging to his office shall be attended to without his having to worry about the ways and means. His time should be free to attend to his highest work and his hand unencumbered to help others. Now at the beginning of the year, make it clear to the rector that he may feel free to concentrate his strength and occupy his time in