

- No doubt many of you saw the great conjunction of the planets Jupiter and Saturn this past Monday evening, which was the nearest these two planets have been to each other in roughly 800 years.
- While New-Age astrologers were all tweeting and twittering about its cosmic significance and what such an astronomical event might portend, for Christians, Monday evening's illuminating display in the sky was reminiscent of that great star that shone over Bethlehem some 2000 years ago.
- It was a reminder, as the Prophet Isaiah foretold so long ago, that the "people who walked in darkness have seen a great light," and that "upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone." Indeed, it was an invitation for us to look for Christ, as did shepherd and Magi.
- Of course, as faithful believers in our Lord, we know that such beautiful events are not merely serendipitous coincidences of nature, for we know that all things are guided by God's almighty and all-merciful hand. All things are subject to our Lord.
- As King David wrote in Psalm 24: "The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples. It is He who set it on the seas; on the waters He made it firm" (Ps 24:1-2).
- And Psalm 89 says: "Yours, O Lord, are the heavens; Yours the earth. You founded the world and all that is in it" (Ps 89:12).
- Truly, our Lord is omnipotent. He is all-powerful. And the great wonders that we behold in nature are but signs of His power and His presence.
- Over the course of this difficult year, so many of us have felt a loss of control over our own lives. At times we have been rendered powerless in the face of circumstances far beyond our control, while fears and restrictions have been laid upon us with staggering effects.
- Truly, it's been enough to test the faith of even the most faithful amongst us. And perhaps many of us do question God's goodness and mercy more than we did in easier times gone by.
- Perhaps we wonder if God truly is all-powerful.
- Yet, there is a grace that comes to us through the celebration of this holy night that can strengthen our faith if we let it.
- You see, Christmas is the feast of God's omnipotence! It's the feast that shows us just how powerful God really is. For Christmas is not just about our Savior's coming to save us.
- Christmas is our celebration that our Lord condescended to become one of us, taking on our weak human flesh! To think: the infinite and all-powerful God gate-crashing time and space in order to become a helpless baby! Yet He did!
- The Word became flesh; the Invisible became visible. God became man, and because of this, salvation is now possible for us.
- While we rightly see in this act our Lord's magnanimous charity, in His incarnation we also see His omnipotence. Truly, taking on our weak human flesh, suffering and dying for our sins, and rising from the dead is God's greatest exercise of His omnipotence.
- As St. Peter Chrysologus wrote so long ago: "Christ's birth was not necessity, but an expression of omnipotence, a sacrament of piety for the redemption of men."
- He did this not simply that we might know that He loves us, but that we might also learn to trust completely in His power to save us!

- Yet even more than that, God took on human flesh in order to restore man's dignity, lost by our first parents' betrayal. Though created in God's own image and likeness from the dust of the earth, our first parents turned against God, introducing sin and death into the world.
- And ever since, with concupiscence and brokenness as our inheritance, we've lived in need of a Savior: One with the power to save us from sin and death and restore us to that heavenly inheritance God so greatly desires to give us.
- Tonight, we celebrate anew this powerful Savior's humble birth into our world. And maybe, just maybe, this year more than any other in recent history, we proud men who have been brought low through this year's turmoil, will recognize our need for Jesus more than ever.

- Living as we are in an uncertain and fragile time, may we not lose sight of the fact that our Lord is all-powerful and worthy of our trust.
- If He can overcome the limits of time and space to become one of us, and overcome even sin and death to save us, surely this same Lord can overcome the struggles and difficulties we now face in our world.
- And should His providential wisdom deign to allow us to suffer yet even more in the coming year, we must have faith that a Lord Who was good enough to suffer and die for us will not leave us bereft of the grace necessary to carry our crosses.
- May we renew our faith in God's omnipotence, and humbly and prayerfully submit ourselves to His tender care with absolute trust that, secure in His grace, we will be able to bear the sufferings of this world, and eventually come to share in the salvation of the just.
- May God's mercy, peace, and consolation be upon us and upon the whole world this holy night. A blessed Christmas to you all.