

Today is the memorial of St. Raymond of Peñafort.

St. Raymond was born in 1175 ... by the age of 20, he was teaching philosophy ... at the age of 30 he had received doctorates in both civil and canon law ... and in his 40s, he became a Dominican friar.

In his 50s, he worked to collect and codify Canon Law ... his work being promulgated by the Holy Father ... and remained a standard text for several centuries. Later he also wrote a work on penitential discipline.

In his 60s, he was made General of the Dominicans, but retired two years later.

In order to preach to the Muslims and Jews of his time, he learned Arabic and Hebrew.

And despite his retirement in his 60s, he lived to be 100 years old.

He was raised to the altars ... declared a canonized saint ... about 325 years later.

Today's first reading on sin, prayer, and mercy is an apt reflection on the life of St. Raymond.

As a brief comment on today's Gospel of the miracle at the Wedding at Cana ... it is of historical note that the three episodes that will be the subjects of the Gospels are often combined - the Wedding at Cana, the Coming of the Magi tomorrow (or tonight), and (Monday) the Baptism of the Lord.

All three events represent a public revelation of God's glory in the life of His Son - an exposition or 'coming out' of the Son of God in the Flesh to the world - the revelation to the Gentiles in the persons of the Magi ... the first miracle which we heard today in the Cana narrative ... and the descent of the Holy Spirit and the voice of the Father at His Baptism by John in the Jordan.

May we, through the intercession of St. Raymond Peñafort, Our Lady, and St. Joseph ... engage the graces poured out on us through the Sacraments to be instruments of God's Love, grace, and mercy - making Christ known to the world through our living out of the mystery of our own Redemption.