

Ask Fr James

Should Catholics practise Horoscope?

There are some Catholic Christians who read the horoscope first thing in the morning to determine their day. They justify their practice of horoscope and tarot cards reading by saying after all; the Magi who practised this astral phenomenon help herald the birth of Jesus some 2000 years ago and they even met Jesus. Yes, indeed the Magi met the baby Jesus, but they bowed to him, worshipped him and surrendered their horoscope practice to Jesus and accepted Jesus as their Lord and saviour and became the first evangelizers who took the message of the New Way back to the East. The Bible tells the story thus:

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked 'Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him' ... On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him and they paid him homage. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh and having been warned *by God* in a dream not to return to Herod, the magi left for their own country by another way. (Matthew 2:2, 9).

Reading horoscope is a mundane astrology when practiced by Christians. It is mixing believe in Jesus Christ with zodiac religious beliefs (syncretism); observing the heavens and searching for omens that might help give information concerning one's life by gazing at the position of the stars and the zodiac signs. This practice was condemned by Jesus himself. He says; "Hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky. How is it that you don't know how to interpret this present time? (Luke 12:56; Matthew 16:3). This condemnation also applies to divination, reading of a deck of tarot cards, Ouija or spirit boards, dreams, reading tea leaves or consulting animals to predict weather or natural events such as meteors, earthquakes or volcanic eruptions.

Horoscope is not the same as listening to scientific weather reports on the radio or Television or on the computer. Consulting any of the above devices or necromancy is divination or sorcery and consists of procedures that overtly rely on chance such as casting lots and these things open one to the occult world. Jesus invites us to a new way when he says; "I am the way the truth and the life" (John 14:6). Only God knows the future. Satan's knowledge is limited. The only way to find peace is through Jesus Christ and only God's power can bring about real changes in a person's life.

You may email/send your faith questions to Fr. James and he will answer them in our Sunday Bulletins.