

# Sister's Spin

Three gifts--gold, frankincense, and myrrh. I wonder what Mary and Joseph thought as they accepted these gifts from the Magi. Was it something like "Whatever are we going to do with these?" But when warned to flee to Egypt, Joseph may have been very glad for the gift of the gold. It probably helped to sustain them in their search for housing, food, and work those first days in a new and strange Egyptian Community. And the incense? Perhaps a good reminder of the God they worshiped in a strange land with no synagogue and far from the Temple. Maybe they burned a little each Sabbath as they prayed. But myrrh? I wonder what they did with that. When returning to Nazareth, was it placed on a shelf and perhaps forgotten? Did Jesus and Mary use some of it when Joseph died? When Jesus left home to begin His ministry, did Mary take it off a shelf, wrap it carefully, and carry it with her as she followed Him to various places? Did she have it with her on Calvary and use it on His Body that lay in her lap? Strange gifts given to a baby, but given by very wise men.

We, too, are given many gifts from God, besides the gift of Jesus given to us in this holy season. It is good to look at the gifts we are given and wonder how God wants us to use them in our everyday lives.

Sister Marcianne

