

Sunday, January 12, 2020

Brothers and Sisters of Our Parish Family,

How often do we think about our own baptism? Since it's not really a memory for most of us, chances are that we don't give our baptism or its effects that much thought. Today, as the Church celebrates the Baptism of Jesus, let's do it.



The gospels tell us that, on the occasion of Jesus' baptism, the heavens opened, symbolizing a new creation (as to Noah after the flood); and God's voice told of the divine love that would enter the world in the person of Jesus. By our own baptism, we have become part of the new creation, and God speaks to us, too, with those same loving and empowering words that He spoke to Jesus: *"You are My beloved son/daughter. I love you very much."* With these divine words, we are truly joined to Jesus and His mission.

The fact that we didn't actually hear these words when we were baptized as infants make it all the more important that we learn how to listen as we grow older and become more aware of the presence of God. In fact, there is nothing we can do in our lives that is more important than listening as God tells us that we are His beloved and cherished children. We are bombarded constantly by the words and messages of our busy world; but none of these human messages can possibly be as important in our lives as the words of God spoken to us in our baptism.

There can be no doubt that Jesus heard these words of His Heavenly Father all during His ministry. When He stepped aside to pray, He would be reassured and comforted and strengthened by these loving words. It would do us all a world of good to set aside some specific time every day to listen as God whispers to us that we, too, are so loved. As we do that, we enter into the full meaning and power of our baptism.

Peace and Blessings,

Father Conrad