

"Baptism of the Lord"

(Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7, Acts 10:34-38, Matthew 3:13-17)

Theme: Remember! You Are Called.

Beloved in Christ Jesus: This Sunday as we celebrate the baptism of our Lord Jesus by John, may we reflect briefly on the importance of our baptismal calling. Jesus' acceptance to be baptized by John, reveals to us the importance of baptism in our lives.

Not only that, through baptism we are cleansed but also we receive the life of Christ in our lives and become incorporated into the mystical body of Christ, the church. Baptism welcomes us into the household of the children of God and makes us candidates of the children of heaven. Jesus told Nicodemus, "that no one can enter the kingdom of God, unless that person is born with water and the Holy Spirit," that is, unless the person is baptized. (Jn. 3:1-8)

At baptism we receive the Holy Spirit of God for the first time and become a disciple of Christ. In baptism, we accept Christ Jesus in our lives and become Christians or Christ-like. Though baptized as infants, we profess this faith in Christ through the faith of our parents, godparents and the assembled Christian community. As adults, we renew this faith in Christ Jesus every Easter night.

The second reading today from the Acts of the Apostles, reminds us, "beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him," (Acts 10:34-38). This message, reminds of whom we are after our baptism and what is expected of us. This shows us, that by the virtue of our baptism, we have received the Spirit of God, that God is with us always, and as ambassadors of Christ, we are to go about doing good. That through our good lives, we are to bring healing and peace to the world. We are now called to make Christ present through our words and deeds in every situation we may find ourselves.

The first reading from Isaiah, remarks that Christ has come "to establish justice on earth" and to be "a light to the nations" (Is.42:1-4, 6-7). We have to realize that this is part of our baptismal calling, to be messengers of justice and lights to our families, community, in our schools, in our areas of work and businesses.

After the baptism of Jesus at the river Jordan, the Father's voice echoes, "this is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." (Mt. 3:13-17) The same voice of our Father in heaven is telling us again today that He is pleased to have us as His sons and daughters. So brothers and sisters, as children of the living God, let us continue to live out our Christian calling by bringing Christ to the world.