

The Baptism of the Lord – Cycle A

January 12, 2020

Christ the Good Shepherd, OCC

Reflection by Father Charles Blanchard

First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7

Psalm: 29:1-2,3-4,3,9-10(11b)

Second Reading: Acts 10:34-38

Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

Welcome to Christ the Good Shepherd. To our enduring parishioners and many new-found friends, know you're always welcome to Hear God's Word, feast at the Table where there is no partiality and celebrate God's Peace and Love.

The basis of our Christian lives and those of us who are non-Christian and yet support "The Small Church with a Big Heart" is **Baptism**.

Baptism is the **Gateway** to life in the Spirit (Vitae Spiritualis Ianua); **Baptism** is the **Entrance**; the **Avenue** or **Door**, through which you and I affirm life and live anew in God's Peace and Love (i.e., other sacraments).

My sisters and brothers, The baptism of Jesus which is celebrated today reminds us of our identity. It reminds us of who we are and Whose we are.

By **Baptism**, you and I become sons and daughters of God, brothers and sisters of Jesus, members of his Church, heirs of heaven and temples of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus' **Baptism** reminds us also of our mission. May our words and actions be like that of Jesus Christ. As heard in today's Gospel from Saint Matthew: "**Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill righteousness** (MT 3:13-17).

Through Christ the Good Shepherd, may our collective mission be:

- **To experience** the presence of God within us;
- **To acknowledge** our own dignity as God's children;

- **To appreciate** the Divine Presence in others by honoring them, loving them and serving them in all humility;
- **To live** as the children of God in thought, word and action;
- **To lead** a holy and transparent Christian life and not to desecrate our bodies (the temples of the Holy Spirit and members of Jesus' Body), by impurity, injustice, intolerance, jealousy or hatred;
- **To accept** both the good and the bad experiences of life as the gifts of our great God of Peace and Love for our growth in holiness; and
- **To grow** daily in intimacy with God by personal and family prayers, by meditative reading of the Word of God, by participating in Mass.

My sisters and brothers, today is a day to thank God for the graces you and I have received in Baptism, to renew our Baptismal promises and to preach Christ's 'Good News' by our transparent Christian lives of love, mercy, service and forgiveness.

Baptism is an opportunity of renewal where you and I are affirmed as **Golden in God's eyes and loved immeasurably!**

Gracias de Dios para todos!