

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

The readings and gospel call us to examine which family do we belong to; whether our thoughts, words and actions show we belong to the Trinity's family or secular culture's family. Do our thoughts, words, and actions mirror the Trinity's truths and way or do they mirror secular society's values, secular society's approach to life? We need to examine our lives to see where we mirror secular society's approach which labels everything by "identity" or group such as Black; Hispanic; "LBGT;" or some "hate expressing" label such as homophobic; or racist. Rather we need to adopt the Trinity's way and see everyone as made in the image and likeness of the Trinity, especially the unborn, those who are most vulnerable.

Secular society likes to now say "no lives matter unless all black lives matter;" yet they exclude the most vulnerable black lives, the unborn black babies killed by abortion. According to the CDC in a report from November 29, 2019, in 2016, there were a total of 362,246 abortions of which 137,510 were black babies and 68,164 were Hispanic babies (<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/68/ss/ss6811a1.htm>). Yet where is the moral outrage, moral condemnation over these minority deaths by secular society, politicians and media?

In terms of the black homicide rate the CDC states, in 2016, the rate was 38/100,000; (<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/abus/2017/029.pdf>) while the rate for blacks dying at the hands of the police was 0.48/100,00 (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4985110/>). Yet again where is the moral outrage, the moral condemnation over the black homicide death rate by secular society, politicians and media?

For us today, whose values will we desire and work to have? Secular society's or the Trinity's values? Will we work to grow in our ability to be docile and obedient to the Trinity's will and truth or secular society's values? Will we ask the Trinity for the graces we need to strengthen the gifts of the Holy Spirit so as to weed out those secular, cultural values and influences which prevent us from growing in our ability to be docile and obedient to the Trinity's will and truths so as to view everyone as an adopted member of the Trinity's family; to view all lives as worthy of having the right to life.

During the short meditation time after this homily, we need to ask the Trinity for the graces we need so as to strengthen the gifts of the Holy Spirit in order to weed out those secular, cultural values and influences which prevent us from growing in our ability to be docile and obedient to the Trinity's will and truths; which prevent us from viewing everyone as a beloved adopted daughter and son of the Father; as a beloved adopted brother and sister of Christ.

While we are waiting to receive our Lord & Savior at communion, will we spend a moment or two, asking the Trinity for the graces we need so as to strengthen the gifts of the Holy Spirit in order to weed out those secular, cultural values and influences which prevent us from growing in our ability to be docile and obedient to the Trinity's will and truths; in order to weed out those secular, cultural values and influences which prevent us from viewing everyone as a beloved adopted member of the Trinity's family.

During the quiet meditation time given us right after communion, we need to spend that time quietly asking the Trinity for the graces we need so as to strengthen the gifts of the Holy Spirit in order to weed out those secular, cultural values and influences which prevent us from growing in our ability to be docile and obedient to the Trinity's will and truths. Or will our hearts, minds and will be spending that

time desiring and thinking of secular activities and things thereby strengthening secular society's values hold over our heart, mind and will?

After the Mass, and during the week, will we try to find some time to pray to the Trinity asking for the graces we need to strengthen the gifts of the Holy Spirit, in order to grow in our ability to become more docile, obedient, and loving adopted daughters and sons of the Father; to become more docile, obedient and loving adopted brothers and sisters of Christ.

Will we also make use of the sacrament of Confession, so as to receive the graces we need, to further strengthen the gifts of the Holy Spirit, in order to grow in our ability to continue to find and avoid those influences, situations, and actions, which lead us to sin, so as to grow in our ability to become more docile and obedient adopted daughters and sons of the Father; to become more docile and obedient adopted brothers and sisters of Christ..

Before we continue on with the Mass, let us ask the Father to send the Holy Spirit now, and especially when we consume our Lord in the Eucharist; so we can be open to the Trinity's graces; in order to reject secular culture's values, ideas, and approach to life; so as to become more intimate, loving, adopted family members, of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.