



January 10, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This weekend we are celebrating The Baptism of the Lord. It is one of my favorite feast days. There is a lot to contemplate in this feast. Jesus allows himself to be baptized by John, but John's baptism was for repentance, something Jesus did not need.

I find it comforting to believe that Jesus allowed himself to be baptized so that he could experience humanity in the way I do. Since I have a need to repent, Jesus is in solidarity with me. I think also with most (all) of us. More importantly is that Jesus understood it was God's will that he be in complete solidarity with humanity and so Jesus fully commits to God's plan. Jesus is in complete harmony with the will of God and so when he is baptized, we are told in the Gospel, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

In our baptism, the one we get from Jesus not John, we are washed free from sin and we are reconfigured to be children of God. We are literally born again. We are put in good standing, but to be honest we still must do what Jesus did. We must persevere in submitting to the will of God. We must remain in harmony with it and not follow a different path. If we keep in harmony perhaps, we too will hear our Heavenly Father declare that in us He is well pleased.

Brothers and sisters today ends the Christmas Season. It has been a tough one, and all too short. We are returning to Ordinary Time. Which does not mean ordinary as in unimportant or mundane. It means ordinal or counted time. We now begin the First Week in Ordinary Time and we will count these weeks throughout the year. We will shift gears on February 17th for Ash Wednesday and Lent and then Easter. In the meantime, we can remain healthy. We can practice our faith. We can build up the church and each other and we can hopefully keep that harmony befitting the Children of God.

You are in my prayers.

Father Michael