

Baptism of the Lord – When trying to engage a group of people with one another, there can be a challenge if the bulk of the participants do not know each other. To help with this there are, what is known as, “Ice-Breakers”. One, such “Ice-Breaker” is known as - “Would you rather?” The game is simple. Two situations are given and participants decide which of the two situations they would rather be a part of. The situation that caught my attention, and which can tie in with today’s Feast goes something like this: “Would you rather be able to hear any conversation or take back anything you say?” A strange choice, for sure, but one that gets our minds thinking. Sometimes it would be nice to hear other conversations, especially if we’re a bit “paranoid” and think everyone’s out to get us. We would like to hear what others might be saying about us. Still – think of the times we may have said something about someone else – it may have been true what we said, or it could have been a lie. Regardless of which it was, we said it to hurt somebody. And as we think of our Baptism with the Lord, we should come to realize that we should only say things that will build up the character of others – particularly their good name. And if we have spoken ill of others, than the willingness to take back the wrong that we have said.

When we think of our own Baptism, or if we participated in the Baptism of another, the question that begins the Sacrament of Baptism Rite is: “What name do you give to your child?” The giving of a name is no simple act. In the naming, the child takes on an identity- his or her own identity with the first name, and with the surname the individual takes on the identity of the family into which they were born. With Baptism the individual also takes on, in a very special way, the identity of a child of God, a follower of Jesus, a Christian. And I can remember a professor, from years ago, saying that on the day we were Baptized the Father said the same thing of us that He said when Jesus was baptized in the Jordan: “You are my beloved, with you I am well pleased.” That’s powerful stuff to think about. And it should make us want to take back anything we say ill of another person.

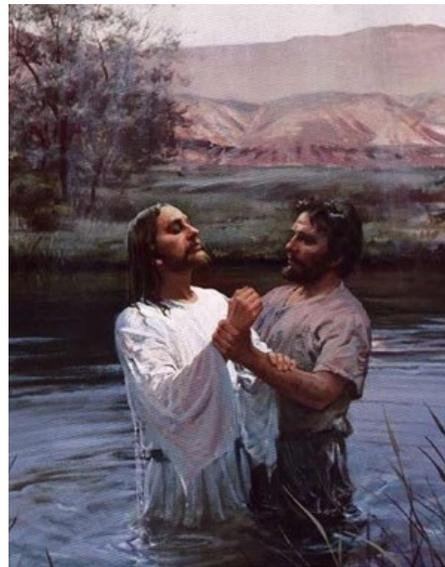
The Baptism of Jesus was a pivotal point in salvation history. It was the end of the ministry of John the Baptist to prepare the way for the Messiah, and it was the beginning of the public ministry of Jesus – a ministry that would consist of preaching, teaching, and healing, climaxing with Jesus’ passion, death, and resurrection. With His Baptism, Jesus dedicated Himself completely to fulfilling the mission that His Father sent Him to accomplish.

The Baptism of Jesus reminds us of our identity. It reminds us of who we are and Whose we are. By Baptism we become sons and daughters of God, brothers and sisters of Jesus – and with one another, members of His Church, heirs of Heaven and Temples of the Holy Spirit. His Baptism reminds us also of our mission: a) to experience the presence of God within us, to acknowledge

our own humility; b) to live as the children of God in thought, word and action with all people; c) to lead holy and transparent Christian lives and not to hatred; d) to accept both the good and the bad experiences of life as the gifts of a loving Heavenly Father for our spiritual growth; e) to grow daily in our intimacy or close relationship with God by personal and family prayers, by meditative reading of the Word of God, by participating in the Holy Mass, and by frequenting the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Today, we do more than remember a Baptism. Today we are given the chance to look at our very identity, a chance to know Who God is and who we are, a chance to take our name: Christian - and to give honor to the name of Christian in the way we live our lives. Today, let’s resolve that we not say or do anything that would mar the family name of Christian.

Let us pray for the Conversion of the World
and for Peace



Just for Laughs -

