



From A Bishop's Journal (667)

What do You Say about Your Baptism? (5)

Our Pentecost pastoral letter this year was quite lengthy, but I believe that the testimonies contained therein are invaluable calls to deepen our baptism, the marvel of our lives.

A Treasure Chest of Seeds

Like most people of my generation, I was not aware of my baptism, but I was privileged to be born in a very practising Christian family. Besides, all of my schooling was in a boarding school where the sisters, through their teaching and example introduced us to the practice of the Christian life. I was therefore able to realise that at baptism I was given a treasure chest of small seeds capable of bearing many beautiful fruits, given a favourable environment. Love of God, attraction to prayer, interest in hearing about God and learning the catechism, the discovery at a young age of my religious vocation, are all fruits of my baptism. One of the realities that made me live and still fills me with happiness is that the Holy Trinity abides in me. I know today that I received everything at baptism, and eternity will not be long enough for me to give thanks to the Lord. – Marie-Cécile Leclerc, S.G.M.

In the Faith of the Church

Baptism is a gift of God, and ours is the duty to live it and share it with others. This is what my parents did. Like most Catholics, my godparents brought me to be baptised when I was only a few days old. An important decision was taken for me by my parents. Since then, I have grown and accepted that decision, first at confirmation in grade one, and then at my profession of faith in grade seven. However, there is still a question regarding my understanding of these events, and their meaning. Does it mean that I did not believe, or that my faith was weak? No, but only that my faith was still growing. My parents taught me how to pray, they raised me and educated me in the faith of the Catholic Church, as best they could. I married a believer, and together we founded a family. We had children and we, too, brought them to church to be baptised. However, this time it was with the faith and trust that being saved by Christ's resurrection, it was important for us to present to God the children He gave us so that they, too, would get to know and love Him as we did. We journeyed

together with different prayer groups in the Church. We were received into the Franciscan Secular Order on the feast of Christ the King. Article 4 of the Rule says that secular Franciscans apply themselves to reading the Gospels frequently, going from the Gospel to life, and from life to the Gospel. This is such a beautiful way of living one's baptism! Today I can say that my baptism is the greatest gift my parents ever gave me, and I want to live this gift of God fully, every day. – Harvey Levesque, O.S.F.

The Road to Truth

I have no memory of my baptism because I was baptised the day after I was born. My parents told me later that I had been baptised and that I was part of the great family of Christ. I later realised that besides giving me physical birth my parents also gave me a spiritual life: these were for me the two most beautiful and richest gifts of all. As I grew up I soon realised that not only was their decision for my good, but that this path was for me the road to truth. I also realised that alone I could not confront life, but by joining the great family of Jesus I could find the necessary support and strength to continue. Thanks to this commitment my parents made in my name, I can proudly say that I am a daughter of God and that He is there to protect me whatever happens. To me, baptism was the key and the seal giving me access to my life as a Christian. It was a covenant with Christ. Baptism committed my whole life in a new direction, that of the Gospel and of Christian education in my daily life. It was to me the first sign of God's love, and the door to the other sacraments. These have been and will always remain the tools that the Church has placed at my disposal to give me the strength needed, in order to pursue my mission with God. My baptism has helped me live a life of sharing, fellowship, and love in order to help build up a better world where it is good to live. Through others, it also introduced me to Jesus. This marked the beginning of my mission to introduce others to God by sharing with the poor and the sick and showing concern for them, encouraging them, sharing in their distress, and always being attentive to them. In other words, I can say today that I was not only baptised but that I am baptised in Jesus, and proud to be so. – Ginette Bossé-Losier

On the Road with Christ

At my baptism God gave me the breath of life, allowing me to be part of the disciples of Christ, shedding light on the darkness in my heart, and these have had repercussions on both the psychic and the physical. My parents passed on the faith to me through baptism. Growth in the faith depends on the grace of God and acceptance of this gift through baptism. The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me. The one who follows Christ has life in abundance. Baptism is a covenant to keep and to show in one's actions and behaviour. Baptism set me on the path with Christ, since through his death and resurrection, he totally opens up every road that is blocked. I was given a new identity at baptism. Yes, I was baptised into Christ. The seed sown in me must bear the fruit it carries, like the caterpillar must become butterfly, since it is already a non-developed butterfly, a butterfly that has not achieved perfection. The transformation of my being by baptism

is due to the conversion of faith, the conversion through which the baptised is joined to Jesus Christ and his Good News. As a baptised person, I acknowledge the God of Jesus Christ whom he calls “Father”, and I see myself as a daughter of God. Baptism makes visible, evident and demonstrable that the human being recognises God as “Father”. As a baptised person, I live this belonging to God as communion within the Church which has its history, tradition, project, and mission. And in this Church, I must be an active member. – Stella Martin

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