

Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord

“Remember Who You Are”

Today is not a quiet feast. It is a confrontation. Jesus—sinless, eternal, the Beloved Son—steps into the waters of the Jordan, not because He needs cleansing, but because He is about to reveal who we are meant to become. When He enters the water, heaven opens. The Holy Spirit descends, and the Father speaks: “You are my beloved Son.” That moment is not only about Jesus. It is about identity—our identity. And identity is the one thing the devil cannot tolerate. We live in a world confused about almost everything—about truth, about freedom, about the human person. But beneath all of it lies a deeper forgetfulness: the world has forgotten its own Creator. When the Author of life is forgotten, life becomes something we invent, manage, or discard. Truth becomes negotiable. Freedom is reduced to desire without direction. And the human person becomes a problem to be solved instead of a beautiful mystery to be loved. That is the culture we live in.

And into that confusion, Baptism speaks with unmistakable clarity—a declaration that cannot be revised, negotiated, or ignored. That declaration is this: you belong to God. Before Baptism, humanity did not yet live fully in that belonging. Through original sin, sanctifying grace was lost. We were still created by God, still loved by God, but no longer sharing in His divine life, no longer living in the intimacy for which we were made. Scripture calls this condition a state of spiritual exile—life lived apart from God. This did not mean the devil owned humanity. It meant that, because we were separated from God’s life, the devil took advantage of that separation. That was the situation—until Christ came. And when Jesus stepped into the Jordan, He was not being baptized for Himself; He was baptizing the water. He enters our brokenness, our death, our exile, and perfectly marks it forever with His presence. What happens to Jesus is what God wants for every baptized person: heaven is opened to us, the Holy Spirit comes to dwell within us, and God calls us His own.

Baptism does not promise comfort. It gives us courage to live as God’s sons and daughters in a world that often forgets Him. Because in Baptism, sin is erased, the Holy Spirit takes up residence, we are adopted as sons and daughters, and we are sealed forever as Christ’s own—and the devil loses his claim. He can tempt us. He can accuse us. He can distract us. But he cannot redefine who we are. That is why the devil fears those who are baptized, not when we are perfect, but when we remember who we are as royalty in God’s family. At our Baptism—through our parents and godparents—the Church asked us: Do you renounce Satan? And all his works? And all his empty promises? Before we ever said, “I believe in God,” we said, “I renounce Satan.” Because Baptism sets us apart. We renounce the darkness that hides the truth. We renounce the illusion that we are in control. We renounce every kingdom that is not Christ’s. Those words were not symbolic. They marked the crossing of a threshold—from one way of living into another way of belonging.

This feast does not look backward. It calls us forward. Do we live like people who know who they are, or like people who have forgotten their name as Catholic? Because a baptized Catholic who forgets their identity can be persuaded to live beneath their dignity. But a baptized Catholic who remembers cannot be easily bent, silenced, or ruled. When Christ stepped into the Jordan, He stepped into your story. When you were baptized, the heavens opened over you. You were named. You were claimed. You were commissioned. So, my friends, stand in the truth of who you are. Live your Baptismal identity. Walk as sons and daughters of God in a world that has forgotten Him. Because you belong to Christ. And a Catholic who remembers that becomes a sign the world cannot ignore and a witness the darkness cannot overcome. Live your Baptismal identity and change the world around you.