



From A Bishop's Journal (665)

What do You Say about Your Baptism? (3)

I once again thank those who submitted their testimony on baptism. I hope that the following lines be an inspiration to us all.

Daily Commitment

I realise that baptism calls me to be part of the community of believers, and to follow Christ. I was immersed in Christ's death and resurrection. However, it is evident to me that being a Christian is a daily commitment; this is very demanding, and it comprises many responsibilities for me to take up, as a baptised person. Today I must confess my faith in word and live Christ's message in action. It is today that I must witness to his love to those I encounter, especially those who are in need. I am called upon today to live my faith with my Christian community. Today I must repeat my "yes" to follow Jesus Christ, and accept to undertake my journey with him. Today I must accept being on an ongoing journey of growth in the faith in order to contribute to the mission of Christ who came to reveal the true face of God to the world, and actualise His presence. Today, in my pastoral work and in my commitments for greater justice in the world, I hope that as a Christian I am adding my own little brick to the construction of this Kingdom of peace, justice, and love which Jesus proclaimed. Such great challenges! It takes a whole lifetime to work through these many challenges of living as a Christian.

– Ghislaine Clavet

Working at Building the Kingdom

The day of my baptism was the most important day of my life. I am now realising the grace I received, that day, when I officially became a member of the great family of God. The Spirit of Jesus I received at baptism has helped me grow in faith and love, and has given me the courage and generosity to respond to the call of religious life. If I was able to get up, after a mistake, if I was able to offer my hand to someone in need, if I have had the courage to stand fast in my faith, if I was able to forgive an injustice, it is all because of the grace I received at baptism. As a baptised person I was also called to serve others, and I thank the Lord for giving me the opportunity to do so, in my work

as a catechist and pastoral agent. Through this I have the opportunity to serve those whom the Lord sets across my path, and to actively participate in the life of my Church community. At baptism the Lord also gave me the mission to work at building up a Kingdom of justice and peace. The Spirit I received at baptism gives me the courage to denounce injustice and to defend the poor. Finally, my vocation as a baptised person, to draw ever closer to Jesus and to work at making my life more like his own, is the work of a whole lifetime. What a challenge! And how lucky I am to have such a vocation!

– Jeannine Cormier, N.D.S.C.

A Divine Colouring

As I began thinking about “my baptism,” I asked myself the following question: If I weren’t baptised, would that change anything to my life? If I were not baptised I would probably feel a deep emptiness and, perhaps, much confusion. I certainly could live the human values and perhaps acts of kindness: my attitudes could reveal to others the kindness, love, and sociability worthy of a human being. If such is the case, what richness, then, does baptism in Christ give me? It is a true mystery of communion with God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. At times I can perceive something of this richness given me; at other times, the richness of this sacrament of Christ’s life in my own life escapes me. My baptism, which makes me a member of the vast family of Christ, gives to my daily actions a value of love which far surpasses my humble capacities, and assures me that I bear in me something much greater than I am as a simple human being. This sacrament allows me to participate in this world in Christ’s divine life and to hear say to me, too: “You are my child, and in you I have placed much trust and kindness.” As a member of the “visible body” of Christ which is the Church, Jesus invites me to work in his vineyard by commitments appropriate to his Gospel; in this way I also take part in building up the Kingdom. This Kingdom is made real as much in my religious community as well as in the parish and diocesan communities. Therefore, “my baptism” gives to my every action and attitudes a divine value which human nature by itself cannot achieve. The Holy Spirit, the Breath of Life, gives to my life a divine colouring that escapes me, but which I appreciate through my faith as a baptised person.

– Viola Côté, F.M.A.

The Greatest Inheritance

Since my baptism, my parents embarked on a beautiful adventure as they accepted, through this sacrament, to raise me in love and in the joy of the risen Christ. I am very grateful for this, and I thank the Lord for my parents who taught me through their example and selflessness, to grow in faith which, to me, was the greatest inheritance I received. At the age of confirming my faith, I was very proud of what I had, and at my Profession of Faith I confidently committed myself to the One who is in me. Through baptism I developed lovingly, and passed on this beautiful gift to my children, and to those around me. I am now deeply committed in my community, and this year I took a major step in accepting the experience of working with the parents of children in grades 5 and 6. This is quite

a challenge, but I trust in the Holy Spirit who is always there to guide me. In this great family of God's children I am happy and fortunate to be in the Lord's service. In closing, I would like to quote Mother Teresa, whom I love very much: "The fruit of faith is love, the fruit of love is service, and the fruit of service is peace."

– Victoire Daigle

+ François Thibodeau

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