



### **From A Bishop's Journal (666)**

#### **What do You Say about Your Baptism? (4)**

**I**t is wonderful to hear the witnesses who sent me their thoughts on their own baptism: These are riches that do so much good!

#### **“Welcome into the Family!”**

I was baptised by my parents because I was too tiny. My baptism is a gift I am proud of. Baptism is a first sign, a gift of the Holy Spirit who gives us the life of God, Christian life in the Church. It is a grace, a spiritual experience. I received life from God. “Welcome into the family!” The Church, community of the disciples of Jesus Christ. Baptised Christians – a common faith. The Spirit in me gives my life meaning, significance. I perceive a life that will never end. Through baptism, I belong to a community of disciples. One faith, one baptism, one service, in the following of Christ. At baptism I become a Christian and Christ gives me his life. With my baptism I have an important role to play in life, through my example. I must spread love around me. – Berthe Desjardins

#### **Priceless Treasure**

I experienced the event of “my baptism” on the day of my birth in the deep faith of my parents who chose for me what they considered to be “the best.” It was an extraordinary gift, being welcomed in the Church as the beloved of God. It was especially my parents, brothers and sisters who helped me discover in my child's heart this priceless treasure placed in me on the day of my baptism, through their witness of love, fraternity, self-denial, commitment, and prayer. It was and still is “living out” on a daily basis. This priceless treasure is God giving Himself, taking the first steps, walking ahead of me, being very close to me so that I may get ever closer to Him and, with Him, I become closer to my brothers and sisters, to reveal to them His loving face, the Good News which brings life and fills one with joy! This God has revealed Himself as infinitely kind, concerned about my happiness, making me feel secure in days of uncertainty and trial, and filling me with His graces, to replace my weakness, and giving me the boldness of trust in Him. This God revealed Himself to me as a bridegroom through the humanity of the risen Jesus Christ who invites me to share everything with him: joys, suffering, trials, successes, failures, apostolic dreams... I quickly realised that I was unable to live God's dreams in my life without the help of the Holy Spirit with his gifts which were given to me at baptism, for me to be a willing instrument in His capable hands that open new vistas, paths to a future filled with hope. Such a richness, this baptism of mine! How I wish that everyone

discovered it, to enhance their happiness by leaning on this rock and working with Him, so that his Kingdom come. – Réjeanne Fortin, S.G.M.

### **Sign of Tenderness**

Baptism is the first sacrament I received, the first visible sign of the kindness and friendship of Jesus. As He did at Jesus' baptism, the Father says to me: "You are my beloved child, and all my favour rests in you." Jesus takes me by the hand and guides me, prays for me, and waits with patience and fidelity, because He leaves me free. He will never abandon me because I belong to him. So, I am never alone, he is at my side. Through baptism I am priest, prophet, and king: I am worth a lot, to him. Through baptism I entered into the great family of God, and I have a community that loves me and supports me. Baptism immersed me in death to sin and resurrection in the life of Christ, so as to live as much as I can as a child of light, with the help of the Spirit. The water of baptism washed me clean of original sin, and this gives me the good odour of Christ. I am very happy to have been baptised! – Marguerite Geneau

### **A Shared Life**

As I consider my baptism I want to thank my parents who had the faith and who were the first people responsible for getting me baptised. Baptism is not something we receive, but a life that we share, a life that should change our way of seeing things and call us to action, to surpassing oneself, and to self-surrender. Baptism immersed me in the death and resurrection of Jesus so that I may develop fully with the help of the Holy Spirit. Baptism is the centre of my life. What prompted me to join a baptism preparation and follow-up team was that one day, as I was taking a walk, the following hymn came to mind: "Father, I am your child." So I discovered my mission to become involved in baptism preparation. It is now five years that I am involved in this ministry. This is what baptism has made me, a "Priest, Prophet, and King." – Yvette Labonté

### **Chosen for a Mission**

I am a good person with a lot of faith, and the sacrament of baptism is very important to me. I am a child of God. As a child I was baptised to be a member of the Catholic Church. I am identified by the name "Leona," God's little girl because He chose me for a mission on this beautiful planet of ours: to love Him, believe in him, serve Him, respect Him, be generous to the poor, help my neighbour, and acknowledge him in my daily life. He counts more and more on me to make him known to others and spread his Gospel. At Mass, his eucharistic bread and wine nourish me with his presence and his love. I am a member of the choir, and a lector in church, and I love to praise him. He gave me a gift by choosing me, so that I may bear fruit, fruit that endures. For me, this is what it means to be his child and to love him eternally. I love to compose, so allow me to give you my definition of a baptised person:

- Building a strong home, filled with love of Jesus...
- Learning to love one another as he loves us...
- Sharing and tasting the good holy bread; communion...
- Working, and listening to his word...
- Being inspired by the Holy Spirit by inviting him every day...

- Lovingly supporting the weaknesses and sorrows of life...
- Being enlightened by my prayer which rises up, so that blessings and kindnesses come down...  
– Léona Leblanc-Lavoie

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