

The Baptism of the Lord

January 10, 2021

Perhaps you remember the day you brought your child to the Church to be Baptized. Everyone dressed to the 9s including your child, ready to be presented to the Community. Family gathered, perhaps you celebrated it here in the context of Mass. The Community of COTM welcomed another member into the church.

Baptism is about BELONGING. Have you ever been in a gathering and knowing that you felt “out of place”? What a terrible feeling. Just want to get out of there. So, perhaps you have experienced that feeling of NOT belonging.

Yes, Baptism creates a relationship, a connection, a sense of oneness. We belong now.

If you were baptized as a child, you wouldn't understand the excitement of our Catechumens as they are brought to the Church on the night of the Easter Vigil. A year of preparation, of study; a year that builds community, that introduces new relationships. Yes, we celebrate belonging. Yes, we celebrate a welcoming. It is greater than a simple membership into a club. It is a change of heart. This welcoming is celebrated in the context of the community of the Faithful. It is our work, to provide for the newly baptized, that safe place of belonging.

The Holy Spirit finds her way deep into the heart of that baptized person. A new consciousness develops, the warmth of belonging, of sensing that “I too am that beloved of God”.

Those of you who have experienced the RCIA process, the year of study and preparation to be Baptized at the Easter Vigil, try to explain it to someone else. Well, try to explain any act of GRACE to someone. It is all God's work.