

Reflections on Baptism of the Lord Year 26A.

Mass: Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7; Psalm: 28; Acts 10:34-38; Matthew 3:13-17.

I always use this story in the Gospel for the Sacrament of Baptism. It spells out so simply the message of the Gospel that God is our Father and calls each one of us his child. We don't become his child through baptism, that has been decided before time began, we are each of us the dream that God has in his heart, just like every parent. In baptism we are graced to discover who we are and begin the journey of our calling, our vocation. Jesus was the logos, the Word, from all eternity. We are a design of God, part of his plan, not because of what we achieve or deserve but out of his creative love. Made to be brothers and sisters of Jesus and sharers in his amazing work of redemption. I sometimes feel sad that we don't celebrate our baptism like we celebrate our birthdays. I was very moved a few years ago to find the register of my father's baptism, just days after his birth. Twin boys born almost at the feast of Peter and Paul and named after them. Both became strong in faith. I was moved I think because that began my father's journey of faith that led to my birth and faith and eventually my vocation as a priest. Our journeys of faith are important to celebrate so that we can live them out with joy and peace.