

From the Pastor's Office

The Baptism of the Lord

The people were filled with expectation. When someone makes me a promise I am filled with expectation. My wall comes down. I make myself vulnerable. Now I wonder, what is going to happen next. Our inclination is to make a Hollywood movie of the whole thing. I want fireworks. I want the angels and heavenly choirs to sing. I want it all to be magic. The Baptism of Jesus was not such an event. John the Baptist was baptizing on the banks of the Jordan River. People stood in line waiting for their turn. Jesus stood in line with the rest. There was nothing to indicate that He was any kind of celebrity. Jesus entered the water and stood in front of His cousin. John recognized Him, but John also recognized Him in a different way that only he could see in that moment. He was waiting for Jesus to come. The baptism continued the same as everybody else. But in the glow of Heavenly grace Heavenly choirs did sing. There were angels. God did speak. "You are my beloved Son, with you I am well pleased." And then it was all over. Jesus left the river and John carried on with his baptizing. When Jesus comes into our lives it is not always with fanfares and trumpets. Jesus comes quietly. Remember when He visited the woman at the well. He just sat by the well for as long as it took. He waited until the woman came. A hymn comes to mind from my youth. It is called "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind." The last verse goes like this: "Breathe through the heats of our desire thy coolness and thy balm; let sense be dumb, let flesh retire; speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire, O still, small voice of calm! O still, small voice of calm!" The voice of God in most instances is like a still small voice of calm. You have to listen for it. I am sure God has a great tenor voice when He booms out. But when He speaks to me, most of the time His voice is small and quiet. That is where I must go to find Him. The first lesson from Isaiah is beautiful and poetic. "Comfort, give comfort to my people." We have been through a lot. Life has its many little ups and downs. The going gets hard sometimes. It is nice to know that God way up there hears us when we cry. He wants to come close to us and give us comfort and support. All I have to do is reach out and grab it.



With love,
Fr. Pat