

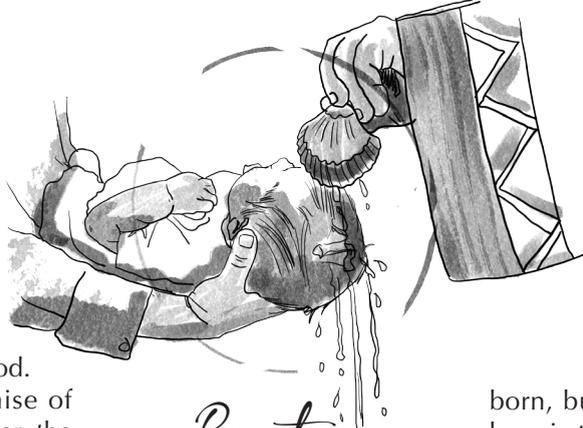


Pope Benedict XVI's Letter of Indiction during the Year of Faith entitled "Porta Fidei" tells us that Baptism is "the 'door of faith' (Acts 14:27). Baptism is our entry into the life of communion with God and entry into his Church, the family of God.

The cross, the Promise of Faith, the baptismal water, the anointing, the white clothes, and candles explain the significance of our Baptism.

In one parish church, Baptism begins at the door. The priest, parents, and godparents welcome the child with the "sign of the cross on the forehead." We enter the Church with the Sign of the Cross.

But, the real entrance to the door of faith lasts a lifetime. It begins with the "baptismal promises" addressed to God as Father and Creator, then to Jesus Christ who saves us by His sacrificial death on the cross and his resurrection, and finally, to the Holy Spirit who dwells within us and gives us the breath of eternal life. This is our community's



*Baptism*  
 Ushers Us to the  
*Door of Faith*

by Fr. Ruben Areño, SSP

faith proclaimed every Sunday during the profession of faith, the Apostle's Creed.

In Jesus' time, baptism was done through immersion. As one enters "into the waters" that symbolizes death to sin, he emerges from the pool of water cleansed into new life. St. Paul tells us the effect of this sacrament: "When we were baptized in Christ Jesus... we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that

as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life" (Rom 6:3-4).

By Baptism we are reborn in the Holy Spirit and given the "white garment" of Christian dignity. By natural birth, we are

born, but we will die. To be born in the Spirit means we are given the seed of eternal life; we will be resurrected with Jesus one day.

Jesus' baptism is his "anointing" by God, and consecration as his only begotten Son. By Baptism, we Christians are joined to Jesus' sonship. As St. Paul writes to the Romans (8:15): "For you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, 'Abba! Father!'"

We receive the "Light of Christ" from the Easter Candle. With Jesus, we all receive God's favor to be sons and daughters with the Son of God. Praise be to the Holy Trinity, who now dwells with us in Baptism. The faith that we receive is the faith that we also share.

**PASTORAL CATECHESIS FOR THE YEAR OF MISSION AD GENTES**

*Arrival of Spaniards and Missionaries*

Fr. James H. Kroeger, MM

Reviewing our common history, we recall that in March 1521 Ferdinand Magellan arrived in search of spices and converts for Charles I (Emperor Charles V); it was his son Prince Philip, later King Philip II, whose name was bestowed on the islands by Villalobos in 1542. Lapulapu, a native chieftain of Cebu, resisted Magellan's claim of Spanish sovereignty, and he was mortally wounded by Lapulapu's spear thrust.

In 1565 Miguel Lopez de Legazpi established the first permanent Spanish settlement in Cebu. Then, in 1571 Legazpi moved his headquarters to Manila, making it

the capital of the colony. By the end of the century, most of the lowlands were under Spanish rule, except for some southern islands which remained Muslim. Islam had been introduced in the late fourteenth or early fifteenth century; it gradually exercised a strong influence in Mindanao and Sulu.

A systematic and organized program of Christian evangelization of the Philippines was begun in 1565 by the Augustinians who accompanied Legazpi's expedition. They were followed by Franciscans (1578), Jesuits (1581), Dominicans (1587), and Augustinian Recollects (1606) from both Spain and Mexico. Manila became a bishopric in 1579 and an archbishopric in 1595. We admire the deep faith and dedication of those early self-sacrificing missionaries!

## THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

### Entrance Antiphon

(Cf. Mt 3:16–17)

*(Recited when there is no opening song.)*

**After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.**

### Greeting

*(The sign of the cross is made here.)*

**P** — Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**All** — **And with your spirit.**

### Introduction

*(These [or similar words] may be used to address the assembly.)*

**P** — Today we celebrate the *Feast of the Lord's Baptism*. The baptism of the Lord inaugurates his mission as Messiah. But Jesus reveals himself not as a glorious figure but as one who is obedient to the Father and close to the poor and to sinners. Today's feast reminds us of our own baptism, which entails dying to our own sinful ways to rise up as beloved children of the Father.

### Penitential Act

**P** — Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries. *(Pause)*

**P** — Have mercy on us, O Lord.

**All** — **For we have sinned against you.**

**P** — Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

**All** — **And grant us your salvation.**

**P** — May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

**All** — **Amen.**

**P** — Lord, have mercy.

**All** — **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** — Christ, have mercy.

**All** — **Christ, have mercy.**

**P** — Lord, have mercy.

**All** — **Lord, have mercy.**

## Gloria

**All** — **Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

### Collect

**P** — Let us pray. *(Pause)*

Almighty ever-living God, who, when Christ had been baptized in the River Jordan and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him, solemnly declared him your beloved Son, grant that your children by adoption, reborn of water and the Holy Spirit, may always be well pleasing to you.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**All** — **Amen.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD



### First Reading

(Is 42:1–4, 6–7 or Is 55:1–11) *(Sit)*

*Isaiah describes the vocation, mission, and suffering of God's servant who will come to save his people.*

### A reading from the Book of Prophet Isaiah

THUS SAYS the LORD: Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased, upon whom I have

put my spirit; he shall bring forth justice to the nations, not crying out, not shouting, not making his voice heard in the street. A bruised reed he shall not break, and a smoldering wick he shall not quench, until he establishes justice on the earth; the coastlands will wait for his teaching.

I, the LORD, have called you for the victory of justice, I have grasped you by the hand; I formed you, and set you as a covenant of the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness.

— The word of the Lord.

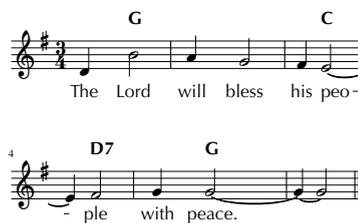
**All** — **Thanks be to God.**

### Responsorial Psalm

(Ps 29 or Is 12)

**R** — **The Lord will bless his people with peace.**

Sr. M. C. A. Parco, FSP



**1.** Give to the LORD, you sons of God, / give to the LORD glory and praise, / give to the LORD the glory due his name;/ adore the Lord in holy attire. **(R)**

**2.** The voice of the LORD is over the waters, / the LORD, over vast waters. / The voice of the LORD is mighty;/ the voice of the LORD is majestic. **(R)**

**3.** The God of glory thunders, / and in his temple all say, "Glory!"/ The LORD is enthroned above the flood;/ the LORD is enthroned as king forever. **(R)**

### Second Reading

(Acts 10:34–38 or 1 Jn 5:1–9)

*Peter explains to the pagan Cornelius and his household that*

*God has brought salvation to Jews and pagans alike through the mission of Jesus.*

## **A reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

PETER proceeded to speak to those gathered in the house of Cornelius, saying: "In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. You know the word that he sent to the Israelites as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all, what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him."

— The word of the Lord.  
**All — Thanks be to God.**

## **Alleluia (Cf. Mk 9:7) (Stand)**

**All — Alleluia, alleluia. The heavens were opened and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, listen to him. Alleluia, alleluia.**

## **Gospel (Mk 1:7–11)**

**P —** A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark  
**All — Glory to you, O Lord.**

THIS is what John the Baptist proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

— The Gospel of the Lord  
**All — Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## **Homily (Sit)**

## **Profession of Faith (Stand)**

**All — I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.**

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (At the words that follow up to and including and became man, *all bow.*) and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **Prayer of the Faithful**

**P —** Jesus came to be baptized in the Jordan so that through the cleansing waters of baptism he might heal our sinful nature. Let us now pray to the Father that we may live up to our dignity as children of God. We pray:

**R — Lord, listen to prayers of your people.**

**C —** May the People of God have a renewed appreciation of the sacrament of Baptism, which constitutes the foundation of communion and mission among all Christians. We pray: **(R)**

**C —** May each of us be faithful to our baptismal calling to be "other Christ" who continue his mission by doing and being good to people around us. We pray: **(R)**

**C —** May parents and godparents be faithful to their duty to help bring up children in the knowledge of faith and in obedience to God's commandments. We pray: **(R)**

**C —** May those who consecrate their lives to God abandon everything and consider all else as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ. We pray: **(R)**

**C —** May the Lord keep in safety those who travel today, give comfort to the sick and the suffering, and welcome to paradise the faithful departed. We pray: **(R)**

**C —** Let us pray for the urgent concerns of our community and our personal intentions (*pause*). We pray: **(R)**

**P —** Heavenly Father, grant that we may be faithful to Jesus to whom we belong by our baptism in water and the Spirit.

We ask this through the same Christ our Lord.

**All — Amen.**



## **Presentation of the Gifts (Stand)**

**P —** Pray, brethren...

**All — May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his Holy Church.**

## **Prayer over the Offerings**

**P —** Accept, O Lord, the offerings we have brought to honor the revealing of your beloved Son, so that the oblation of your faithful

may be transformed into the sacrifice of him who willed in his compassion to wash away the sins of the world.

Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

**All — Amen.**

### **Preface: The Baptism of the Lord**

**P —** The Lord be with you.

**All — And with your spirit.**

**P —** Lift up your hearts.

**All — We lift them up to the Lord.**

**P —** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All — It is right and just.**

**P —** It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For in the waters of the Jordan you revealed with signs and wonders a new Baptism, so that through the voice that came down from heaven we might come to believe in your Word dwelling among us, and by the Spirit's descending in the likeness of a dove we might know that Christ your Servant has been anointed with the oil of gladness and sent to bring the good news to the poor.

And so, with the Powers of heaven, we worship you constantly on earth, and before your majesty without end we acclaim:

**All — Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. (Kneel)**

### **Acclamation (Stand)**

**All — When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.**

## **THE COMMUNION RITE**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**All — Our Father...**

**P —** Deliver us, Lord...

**All — For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever.**



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### **Invitation to Peace**

### **Invitation to Communion**

*(Kneel)*

**P —** Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**All — Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

### **Communion Antiphon**

*(Jn1:32,34)*

**Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.**

### **Prayer after Communion**

*(Stand)*

**P —** Let us pray. *(Pause)*

Nourished with these sacred gifts, we humbly entreat your mercy, O Lord, that, faithfully listening to your Only Begotten Son, we may be your children in name and in truth.

Through Christ our Lord.

**All — Amen.**

## **THE CONCLUDING RITES**

**P —** The Lord be with you.  
**All — And with your spirit.**

### **Solemn Blessing**

**P —** Bow down for the blessing.

*(Pause)*

May almighty God always keep every adversity far from you and in his kindness pour out upon you the gifts of his blessing.

**All — Amen.**

**P —** May God keep your hearts attentive to his words, that they may be filled with everlasting gladness.

**All — Amen.**

**P —** And so, may you always understand what is good and right, and be found ever hastening along in the path of God's commands, made coheirs with the citizens of heaven.

**All — Amen.**

**P —** And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, (+) and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever.

**All — Amen.**

### **Dismissal**

**P —** Go forth, the Mass is ended.

**All — Thanks be to God.**

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