

Fr. O'Connor's Homily January 12, 2020
The Baptism of Jesus

Do you remember what I talked about last week? Do I have any takers? No surprise!

I think it supports what I said last week i.e... We've really got to get into the Scripture, the Gospel- not just have somebody up there read it to you and talk with you. So let me tell you a story.

One Saturday last fall, Anne and Betty went to a garage sale. Anne started out by going through a tray of trinkets. Betty asked her, "Any luck?" "No", said Anne. It's just a pile of junk. Then Betty tried her luck. She took one look and said, "I can't believe it, I've found a treasure," as she picked up a tarnished old cross made of antique silver.

When she got home she polished the cross and confirmed that it really was a treasure. She thought to herself, "Anne found only junk but I found a treasure."

Later, Betty's seven year old son, Bobby, picked up the cross and looked intently at it. Then he began to cry. "What's wrong?" Betty asked him. I can't help it he responded. I'm looking at Jesus on the cross.

Three people looked at the cross. One saw junk, another saw a treasure and Bobby saw Jesus.

The same can be true of today's Gospel. The first person hears the Gospel and it goes no further-done. The second person hears the Gospel and tries to hear the story's meaning. The third person not only tries to learn the story's meaning but tries to apply the Gospel to his or her life.

Now perhaps you are beginning to remember a little of last week's homily. The first take is: What did you hear? The 2nd: What does it mean? The 3rd:What will it cost to live it? We call this Lectio Divina (Sacred Reading).

So here is what I heard. "The Spirit descended like a dove on Jesus." What it means to me is that in his humanity, Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit and also each of us received the Holy Spirit at our Baptism.

What will it cost me, you, to live this indwelling of the Holy Spirit? More than I can possibly grasp. Each of us is a temple of the Holy Spirit. We must live as a person possessed of the Holy Spirit. Listen to Jesus' Spirit moving in me, in you, inspiring us, energizing us to love, to forgive, to speak on God's behalf.

May we find more than silver, more than gold. May we discover God's Spirit within us! Lectio Divina. In Baptism I become a Temple of the Holy Spirit. I am sacred!