

**Fr. O'Connor's Homily**  
**January 19, 2020**

Joan Conte had a baby boy. She and her family took Joseph to Church to be baptized. When they got home, the family and friends gathered in the living room to celebrate. But, his big sister, three year old Maria, asked them all to leave the room. She had something to say to the baby. So, they all stepped out of the room but kept the door opened a crack to listen. Maria went over to the baby and whispered in his ear, "Tell me what God us like, I'm beginning to forget."

One of the phenomena that delights me is people's attraction to Baptism. Grandparents, single mothers, even those who have dropped out of church participation, want their children baptized. People still cling to the sacrament. What is this attraction all about?

I think it has to do with our longing for union with God, with our belief that baptism unites us to Jesus, to His dying and rising. We want to know what God looks like.

A question for you. What do you think are the two most important events that have taken place in history? I think they are the creation of the universe including humans, and secondly an even greater event, that a dead man rose to life, the Resurrection of Jesus.

When Jesus rose, the dead end street of death was conquered, defeated. The victory of everlasting life, eternal life, began.

When we talk about the Resurrection of Jesus we are not talking about resuscitation. Jesus remained one of us – human- but came to life in a risen, glorified way.

He was able to pass through closed doors, to eat, to be touched. He had risen to a new level of life, nevermore to die -immortal. Yet, he remained human, one of us. This is the same life Jesus promises to us –"Everyone who believes in me will never die" everyone who believes.

Our faith need not be perfect. Faith the size of a mustard is enough, is plenty. Remember Jesus is pouring His Holy Spirit into our hearts at every moment. He is pouring into us faith, the power to believe. All we need to do is accept His Spirit. We may even cry out, "Lord I believe, help my unbelief."

One more thing I want to tell you. At the very heart of Jesus' life was His abandonment to the will of His Father. "Father, He prayed, "Your will not mine be done," and on the cross, "Father into your hands I commend my Spirit."

At the very heart of Baptism is death and life.

At the very heart of the Eucharist/Communion, at the very heart of our following of Jesus is our prayer, "Father into your hands I commend my Spirit." "Father, your will, not mine be done."

This is the heart of Baptism. This is the heart of the Eucharist. We celebrate this morning "Father into your hands, I commend my Spirit."