



Essential Evangelization

Baptismal Promises?

In today's Gospel reading we hear the second half of the story of Jesus' baptism by John and the descent of the Holy Spirit on our Lord and Savior. By Jesus' example in the Sacrament of Baptism, we too become members in the one Body of Christ. Baptism not only purifies us from all stain of original sin, but also makes us a "new creature" and an adopted son of God. We become a partaker of His divine nature, a temple of the Holy Spirit and a co-heir with Jesus in the New Kingdom.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us that Baptism constitutes the foundation of communion among all Christians, even those who are not yet in full communion with the Catholic Church. "For all who believe in Christ and have been properly baptized are put in some, though imperfect, communion with the Catholic Church." Baptism then does constitute the sacramental bond of unity that exists among all those who are reborn.

Whoever wishes to remain faithful to his or her baptismal promises should: resist temptations, improve self knowledge in the Word, practice truth and justice, be obedient to God's commandments, exercise moral virtues, and have fidelity to prayer.

How can you improve on your Baptismal promises?

"Baptism is God's most beautiful and magnificent gift... we call it gift, grace, anointing, enlightenment, garment of immortality, bath of rebirth, seal and most precious gift. It is called gift because it is conferred on those who bring nothing of their own; grace since it is given even to the guilty; Baptism because sin is buried in the water; anointing for it is priestly and royal as are those who are anointed; enlightenment because it radiates light; clothing since it veils our shame; bath because it washes; and seal as it is our guard and the sign of God's Lordship." St. Gregory of Nazianzus

*This is one of a series of articles on
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