

A Word From Fr. Tom Niehaus

January 12, 2020

My Beloved Son

"After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened for him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon him. And a voice came from the heavens saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased (Matthew 3:15-17)." The favor of the Father is poured out upon Jesus in a spectacular way at his baptism by John in the Jordan River. As the Holy Spirit hovered above those powerful words, "My beloved Son," were spoken. When someone today is baptized that same favor of God the Father is poured out upon them. Our Heavenly Father loves his children and at baptism He claims us in a special way with His grace and blessing. There should be a prevailing confidence in the heart of every baptized Christian knowing that they are loved by the Father, just as He loves His Son Jesus. Some of us know the love of our earthly father and have little to no trouble receiving the love of God the Father. For others, they were wounded by their earthly fathers or did not experience any love from a father because their dad was not a part of their life. In the midst of all these scenarios is God the Father who wants to lavish His love on His children and strengthen us with His favor. He desires to draw us close to Him and tell us face to face, "You are my beloved." The Father is wild about you and I and He will not withhold His love from you or me. In the free choice of our human will that we have, He allows us to reject or accept His love. Some of us do not know what to do in the presence of God the Father, because we have never known this type of love. The Father loves us unconditionally and completely. We may through our human weakness try to blame God for being a tyrant who counts our faults against us, or accuse Him of being distant and aloof from our pain and misery. Ultimately, Our Heavenly Father is Abba or Daddy who loves His children so much. Baptism is an entry into the loving embrace of the Father, and allows us the access to the riches of grace that our found in Jesus Christ and His Church. Through the Sacraments



you and I receive continued strength to live out our Christian faith as beloved sons and daughters of Our Heavenly Father. As we grow in our relationship with God and others through prayer, meditating on the

Sacred Scriptures and community worship we deepen in our truest identity as "beloved" as we travel on this path toward eternal life.

Take some time this weekend to reflect on baptism. Ask someone about your baptism. Recall the baptism of a child or relative that you attended. Remember how much love was present on that day.

Doctors of the Church Seminar

Interested is growing in your Catholic Faith and going deeper into the mysteries concerning our faith in Christ? Join in the Spring 2020 edition of Doctors of the Church seminar beginning on January 19, 2020. We will be meeting on Sunday evenings at 7 pm at Most Holy Redeemer in Montgomery, MN. The topic this semester will be: The Cappadocian Fathers: St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory of Nyssa and St. Gregory Nazianzus. Show up the first night to find out more information.

God bless you!

Fr. Tom Niehaus