

Homily by Fr. Gabor – Baptism of the Lord, 2019

Today the key word of our celebration is ‘baptism’. We remember that the Lord Jesus was baptised; he was baptised with the Holy Spirit.

Unfortunately the word ‘baptism’ comes from the Greek language and its English equivalent, ie. ‘filling up’ never became commonly used. Therefore when we use the word ‘baptism’ we only think of the baptism ceremony, instead of what actually happens during that ceremony, namely that we are completely filled up with the Holy Spirit.

Since we don’t think of this really important meaning of baptism we don’t think of whether we are completely filled up with the power of the Holy Spirit or depleted. This is the big question put to each one of us today: Do you feel completely filled up with the Holy Spirit or not?

If yes, that’s great, and it indicates that in many ways the Holy Spirit is working through you. If not, then it is a good opportunity to make changes and open yourself up again to the power and grace of the Holy Spirit.

Before the most recent spiritual renewal of the Catholic Church started in 1967, at Duquesne University, in the United State, during a retreat, students went into the University chapel and rededicated themselves to following the Lord in every way, with all their minds and hearts and strength, even if they had to suffer. Then immediately they experienced a new filling up with the Holy Spirit, and from that moment onward a global spiritual renewal began in the Catholic Church; because they were baptised, in other words completely refilled with the Holy Spirit.

This renewal of commitment and dedication of the whole life to the Lord Jesus can be done at any time and by any Christians. If you do this dedication to express the renewal of your love for the Holy Trinity it is inevitable that they will gently respond, just like a parent: ‘you are my beloved son/daughter’, and their words will practically appear in the form of the coming of the Holy Spirit, just as we heard in the Gospel story. The more you put into your rededication and commitment, the more you will receive back from the Holy Trinity.

Two weeks ago, when I and many others did the renewal of our dedication to the Sacred Heart I went home refreshed as a new person, filled with God's love. To me definitely that was a clear response of the heavenly Father and I believe He increased the power of the Holy Spirit in me. It lasted only for a few days. It faded away for various reasons. Therefore it is time for me to renew that dedication again.

However I want to encourage you also to renew your dedication to the heavenly Father through Jesus, and do it sincerely with all your mind and heart, especially if you feel spiritually depleted. For this you will find printed sheets at the Church entrance or you can simply search the Internet for the prayer of Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, or you can make that renewal in your own words, and do it every time you feel spiritually depleted or weak.