



Our Parish Community

July 3, 2022

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Is 66:10–14c

Gal 6:14–18

Lk 10:1–12, 17–20 or 10:1–9

Dear Padre,

Why should I have my baby baptized?

Some parents pondering baptism say a child should mature first, then choose his or her religion. Yet, parents make many choices for their children—including name, diet, bedtime, and education. To forgo baptism means to choose a nonreligious outlook on life for your child. Indeed, objection to baptism can be a veiled statement about the parents' disregard for religion.

Baptism confers many benefits. First, it cleanses the soul of original sin. Scripture says Adam and Eve relinquished their God-centeredness, instead adopting a self-centered attitude. They thought of themselves as the center of the universe. Such self-delusion is the origin of all sins. Baptism reverses this, with God telling the child he is loved and regarding him like his own Son, Jesus. Baptismal waters immerse the child into the depths of God's love.

Second, baptism begins a new life of loving response to God's love. Of course,

infants don't understand this during baptism. Children learn it from religious training and their parents' example. The sacraments aid us in living this life of love, especially the Eucharist in which Christ comes to us as bread and wine to nourish us with his love. As parents give a child her very existence, through baptism they set her on course toward eternal life.

Finally, baptism makes the recipient a member of Christ's body, the Church. The child, along with other Church members and guided by ordained pastors, will speak for Christ in society. What parent doesn't want the best for his or her child? Through baptism, God also wants the best for them.

Fr. Gary Lauenstein, CSsR / Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



A WORD FROM Pope Francis

[Babies] have a "choral" dimension: it is enough for one of them to start to "sing" and everyone follows and there will be a concert. Do not be alarmed. It is a beautiful homily when a baby cries in church....Make sure that they are all right and let us move forward.

ADMINISTRATION OF BAPTISM TO NEWBORNS, JANUARY 12, 2020



[Jesus said,] "Go on your way; behold, I am sending you like lambs among wolves."

LUKE 10:3

Rebuild a City

There doesn't seem to be a period in human history when cities were not destroyed by war. This was the case in ancient Rome, Atlanta during the Civil War, Dresden in World War II, and more recently, Aleppo in Syria. The devastation of a city leaves the survivors of the tragedy in desperate straits. This is the situation to which Isaiah speaks in the first reading. His message is one of hope. Jerusalem will be rebuilt; it will flourish once again. God will "spread prosperity over her like a river" (Isaiah 66:12). This will not be accomplished through mere human effort, but through the power of God.

The passage from Luke tells us how God will accomplish such a feat. There we read that Jesus sent seventy-two followers to preach the gospel. The power of God will work through them. We know little about who they were, from which villages they came,

or how long they acted as itinerant preachers. They may simply have gone back to their own lives and ministered to their own people. Such information is inconsequential.

What is important is the fact that God works through the followers of Jesus, through you and me. It will be through us that lives are rebuilt, that people will thrive again. It will be through us that cities are no longer destroyed by war. Do we believe this? Are we willing to be sent "to every town and place he intended to visit" (Luke 10:1)?

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- ★ **Pope Francis insists that by virtue of baptism we are all missionary disciples. What does this mean for you?**
- ★ **How might you live this out in your life today?**