

## PASTOR'S CORNER



*I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.*

Why is Jesus baptized? Our Lord comes to be baptized, not because he needs it, but because we need it. The baptism of Jesus is not for the sake of Jesus, it is to make a new and everlasting covenant with us and to bring salvation to all people.

Christ did not need to be cleansed of sin nor did he need to be made holy – but I did. The waters do not change Jesus. Jesus Christ the sinless one, Christ the holy one descends into the waters and changes them so that they might have the power to change me. In Christ's baptism, all the water of the world is consecrated so that in our baptism he might cleanse us; removing our sin and making us holy.

The Holy Spirit descends upon Christ not because he needed to be anointed – he was always filled with the Holy Spirit – but because I needed it; I needed to be *anointed with the Holy Spirit and power*. And so in baptism the Holy Spirit descends upon us as well that we might be anointed with strength and zeal for the mission God has prepared for us.

The voice of the Father speaks, “*You are my beloved Son,*” but Jesus didn't need to hear it. Jesus knew who he was and knew the love of the Father from eternity. I needed to hear it. I still need to hear it. The Father spoke so that in baptism I might hear that I am his child, that I am his beloved one, that I might even hope to be someone with whom he is well pleased.

Through his Baptism, Jesus Christ himself is made a covenant for us in our baptism – a promise that in baptism we are claimed by this Most Holy Trinity: We are also made beloved children of the Father, we are anointed with *the Holy Spirit and power*, and we are made part of the body of Christ, the Church – opening us to the flood of grace God has desired to richly pour out upon us.

In Christ, through Mary,

*Fr. Dominic David Maichrowicz, OP*