

The Young Adult Scripture Reflection
January 10, 2010
The Baptism of the Lord

Hello,

Here ends the Christmas season. With this Sunday we enter into the short period of Ordinary time until the start of Lent. This Sunday reminds us of an ending of the Old Testament and gives us the start of Jesus' ministry.

Peace,
Jen Delvaux

Gospel

Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

The people were filled with expectation,
and all were asking in their hearts
whether John might be the Christ.
John answered them all, saying,
"I am baptizing you with water,
but one mightier than I is coming.
I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals.
He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

After all the people had been baptized
and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying,
heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him
in bodily form like a dove.
And a voice came from heaven,
"You are my beloved Son;

with you I am well pleased."

Reflection

One of the greatest blessings we have is that of beginnings. There are plenty of beginnings in the Bible and our faith. We often see people given new beginnings and second chances to start again. With these starts we have a sense of continuing hope. No matter what destruction may happen (Noah's flood) or how hopeless it may seem

(Elizabeth was childless into her old age), God grants beginnings at unexpected and beautiful times.

Part of this is absolutely befuddling to us. It seems odd to have the Son of God baptized by a mere man. No matter how confusing or unexpected these beginnings are, they are moments of grace that shed light on God.

God uses a very human situation, a crowd of people, a running river, and a prophet far from understood, to begin the ministry of Jesus. The images are such that we can touch still today, river water – cool with a few grains of fine sand floating through it; the crush of a crowd – murmuring as gossip and guesses ebb and flow. Within this moment is the fulfillment of prophesies and the beginning of a whole new chapter in our salvation.

Here begins the adult life of Jesus that would lead us to the cross and then the empty tomb. In the baptisms we all experience we become part of this long history of new beginnings. We are brought into the family of God and as such (just like any family) expected to live accordingly. Jesus' baptism began his ministry, so does ours. How is your life with the loving God? How is your ministry here on this earth?