

January 10th, 2022 – 1st Monday of Ordinary Time

What do we find in this Gospel? It is the first reading that the Church offers us at the beginning of this new time after the Lord's baptism.

Here we are shown the plan of the heavenly mystery of God in the person of Jesus Christ. After Jesus was baptized, the entrance of heaven was opened... the Holy Spirit came forth from eternity into time and space... the Holy Spirit is visibly recognized in the form of a dove, that is, in the symbol of the peace he brings when we accept his guidance.

Then a voice from heaven spoke loudly: "You are my Son, today I have begotten you". In this we see that Jesus reveals himself as the Son of God. The Father uses sound and sight to show us this message about Jesus the Son. This lets us know something about the powerful waters of baptism. In baptism, the Holy Spirit comes upon us from the gates of heaven, imbuing us with the anointing of the heavenly glory to which we are called.

In baptism, we truly become children of God by adoption expressed through the voice of the Father. He claims his right over our souls for all to hear. These events in history foreshadow an image of the mysteries established for us in the sacraments Jesus gives to his Catholic Church.

By choosing the fishermen as his first apostles, we can see how their future service to Jesus will be lived out in his church. Just as these men pull fish out of the sea, so would they catch men one by one from this present world and call them to a higher place. What is meant by this is that they will be called to the light of a heavenly abode.

By the apostles' abandonment of their profession, their country and their homes, we who follow Christ are taught not to be bound by the preoccupation of life in this world...or by attachment to the home or country of our family.

In the choice of the first four Apostles, we see a prefiguration of the number of future evangelists. It will be the four voices of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John that will explain to us all the things of Jesus Christ.

Jesus went through Galilee preaching in the synagogues the Gospel of the Kingdom and healing the ailments of all the sick. He revealed himself with these deeds so that they would recognize him as the one of whom the Jews had read for a long time in the books of the prophets.

Everything in the Scriptures has a profound meaning. Just as everything in the Mass has a deep meaning. Let us fix our eyes on the depths of these mysteries of the Holy Mass and prepare ourselves to make ourselves worthy of the promises of Jesus Christ.