



Daily Reflections

April 26, 2017

Scripture

John 3: 16-21

God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son,
so that everyone who believes in him might not perish
but might have eternal life.

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world,
but that the world might be saved through him.

Whoever believes in him will not be condemned,
but whoever does not believe has already been condemned,
because he has not believed in the name of the only-begotten Son of God.

And this is the verdict,
that the light came into the world,
but people preferred darkness to light,
because their works were evil.

For everyone who does wicked things hates the light
and does not come toward the light,
so that his works might not be exposed.

But whoever lives the truth comes to the light,
so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.

Our Scripture Reflection

After recording Jesus' instruction of the Jewish leader Nicodemus about the nature of His origins (born from above), John goes on to give Nicodemus, and us, the reason why He was born into this world. It's all about God's love, unconditional and sacrificial, for each of us. And how do we experience this love? We must be "born" into Jesus and that happens at Baptism.

Food for your Journey

Jesus is talking, here, about being born. If there's one thing in life we don't do on our own, it's being born. We burst into this world screaming and kicking — perceptions confused, eyesight blurred, thoroughly dependent upon others for everything. How can we ourselves possibly arrange to be reborn in the Spirit? It's not our doing. It's a holy mystery, an awe-inspiring gift. And that is why we have a whole sacrament to commemorate it: the marvelous, grace-filled sacrament of water and the Spirit called baptism.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, At my Baptism I was born into Your very life as my Lord and Savior. May I live up to my Baptism promises by serving You in all things. Amen.