

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.”

Luke 3:22

Here are a few of my notes and thoughts from the first part of Father Lerner’s presentation:

In the gospel this past week, we have the baptism of Jesus where the heavens open and the Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus in the form of a dove and from the heavens above is heard “beloved, you are mine with whom I am well pleased.”

Father Lerner reminded us that Jesus didn’t do anything to earn God’s love. God loves his son just as he loves each of you, beloved his sons and daughters.

Your parents love you so much that they had you baptized, which is the gateway into the all the sacraments, so you would receive the same powerful spirit that Jesus received in last week’s gospel. The spirit of wisdom, understanding, courage and knowledge that leads us to the grace of God. A spirit by its very nature brings us to a new place. We become a vessel of the living God and each of us is called, through this sacrament, to become “Christ-like.” How do we do this? By using the gifts and talents we have been given by God to be his light on earth. When we use these gifts to become the incredible person God created us to be, we fulfill His mission for us on earth. This is how, as disciples, we show others God’s love.

Find a quiet place read and reflect upon the following:

No matter what you do: God loves you intensely even with your doubts, faults, and insecurities.

No matter what we do God looks at us as if we were Christ.

No matter our doubts, faults or insecurities: God loves us beyond belief.

You are called, chosen and formed by God and when He sees you He sees His beloved sons and daughters.

You are my chosen one – today at this moment – with whom I am well pleased.

God is too busy loving us to be disappointed in us.

Fr. Greg Boyle