

In The Name of Our Creator.
The Son Our Saviour and Redeemer
And
The Triune Spirit who is with Us Always.

Notes

A man was walking near a river when he came upon a priest conducting a baptismal ceremony in the water. When he got nearer, the priest asked him, “are you ready to find Jesus?” yes the man replied. So the priest dunked him in the river, the priest pulled the man out of the river and asked him have you found Jesus? The man said no, so the priest dunked the man again same question, have you found Jesus, same answer no . By this time the priest was getting a little frustrated, so he dunked the man a third time in the river, but this time he held the man a little longer, finally, the priest pulled him up and said “Brother have you found Jesus, gain the man said no and said to the priest are you sure that this is where Jesus fell in?. I think this joke illustrates quite clearly how the sacrament of baptism is often misunderstood. Baptism is not where we go looking for Jesus; it is not like joining a club or performing some symbolic ceremony. Baptism is the Spirit of God opening in us like a small mustered seed. That is what makes so important. Many Christians have hardly understood the true meaning of the lasting Spiritual benefits of the Sacrament of Baptism provides. Building the

relationship with the One True God. Many people, many well meaning Christians even, have hardly even scratched the surface of understanding the true and lasting spiritual benefits the sacrament of baptism provides. But today as we examine the events of the baptism of Jesus I think it will be impossible not to gain a deeper appreciation for our one baptism and the benefits which we receive. Remember John's baptism was a baptism of repentance, John said I prepare the way discouraging to the Torah as God promised to the people of God, as it was then and as it is now. When Jesus comes to John to be baptised John says, "I need to be baptised by you, and do you come to me to be baptised?" Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, it is proper for us to do this to fulfil righteousness" Matthew 3:15. that why Jesus came to the Jordan river to fulfil all Righteousness. Jesus knew his life was the fulfilment of The One True God's promise to the world to bring us back into the relationship that was lost. That Jesus participated with John in the baptism of repentance was to show the world that he was human. You see when Jesus comes to John to be baptised, John says, "I need to be baptised by you" Jesus answered John "Let it be so now, it is proper for us to do this to fulfil all righteousness, my brother and sisters that's why Jesus came to the Jordan River to fulfil all righteousness, Jesus knew for him to fulfil God's will his life was the

fulfilment of all righteousness, and the fact Jesus participated in a baptism of repentance, Jesus in his baptism wanted to show God's righteousness to the world, so you and I can build our relationship with the One True God. This is why we are baptised into the name of Jesus, we are baptised into the name of the Triune God . Like Jesus, we also receive, at our baptisms, a small drop of water to awaken our relationship with God. As our witnesses guide us in our lives. Like Jesus, we also receive at our baptism the re awaking of God's Spirit in us by a drop of water, Jesus becomes one in us as part of the Triune Spirit.

So what ? What does your baptism mean to you today?. Water is in and of its self sacred. Baptism is a ritual expression of what is. Baptism does not bring anything special. Baptism opens us up to what already is. The waters of baptism open us up to what is already beyond us. Just as the Gospel story tells crafted stories about Jesus baptism which enabled their people to recognise the sacred in Jesus. It is easy to see the sacred in a baby or in a loved one. But how do we see the sacred in people we meet and share this life with? What epiphanies await you and I ? what do we need to do to facilitate those epiphanies ? What needs to happen in us so we can recognise the sacred in the people we meet. Many years ago in scouting in Toronto I had to help a Sikh community to integrate

into Canadian Scouting movement, I was greeted by a Hindu word Namaste I replied welcome to the Scouting movement. I found out that Namaste is a greeting which means that the God in me recognises the God in you. In Canada Christians have a greeting, when we celebrate coming to gather, Peace be with you, The Christ in me greets the Christ in you. The Jewish people say, Shalom and the Muslim say Salam a La chum. The God in me sees the God in you. People have a habit of not recognising what is in front of them. What do you and I need to do in our lives so that the sacred in each one is recognised?