



Le coin de l'opinion

Fifth Sunday Reflection By Christine Wright

When preparing for a Liturgy of the Word for the Fifth Sunday of Easter, I found a reflection that sums up the readings in these points: Service, Leadership, Faith, and Vocations.

Of these, I would like to focus on Vocations and Service.

At a Baptism celebration, the baby or adult is anointed with the Oil of Chrism, and as that anointing is taking place, the following is said:

**As Christ was anointed Priest, Prophet, and King,
so may you live always as a member of his body, sharing everlasting life.**

Through Baptism, we are all called to be priest, prophet, and king. That is to share our faith and the Holy Spirit, received at Baptism and strengthened at Confirmation, with others.

A couple of weeks ago, we celebrated Vocations Sunday, where we were reminded that we do indeed need to pray for more vocations to the priesthood. At the moment in our Pastoral Unit, we have only two full-time priests and one part-time priest, serving our eight parishes.

With that, there has been a need to mandate lay people to assist the priests in different areas of ministry. I'm not sure if you realize that our Diocese has been very advanced in assisting our priests through mandates of lay people. Mandates within our Diocese come directly from the Bishop.

I would now like to share with you a very special ministry that I have been involved with since 2015. Back in 2000, when I left teaching to become a Pastoral Agent, part of my role at Saint Mary's involved preparing families for Baptism of their child(ren). After doing that for fifteen years, and as previously mentioned, having a reduced number of priests, I was approached and asked if I would consider becoming what is called an Extraordinary Minister of Baptism. At the time I thought, "Me?! Baptising babies! No, I'm not worthy of doing that! I'm a wife, mother, (and now a grandmother)

– I can't take on the responsibility of calling on the Holy Spirit in a SACRAMENT." Then I was reminded by Fr. Marc, Pastor at the time, of those words used in my own infant Baptism celebration.



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When it came to celebrating the first Baptism as Extraordinary Minister, there were actually two families included; two babies to welcome into the Christian community. I was a nervous wreck... so afraid of leaving something out. So afraid of forgetting the baby's name or worse, saying the wrong name...you name it the jitters were there. Well, when I used the words, "Lincoln / Jaxson, I baptise you, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" for the firsttime; as I poured water on their heads, looking into their eyes, I was overcome with a sense of **AWE**, and truly felt the Holy Spirit's presence. Since then, I have been honoured to baptise children in six of our eight parishes. I'm not sure how many children I have now baptised, but I assure you, I feel that presence and gift of Wonder and Awe at every baptism celebration that I am blessed to celebrate.

I am sharing this because I was able to rely on the Holy Spirit and come out of my comfort zone and I'm sure, that many of you can do the same. There are so many areas of ministry and service within the church or the community that can always use another hand or two. Call upon the short powerful prayer that Fr. Manus often reminds us of: Come, Holy Spirit! Be open to the Spirit coming over you, with that sense of **AWE** while continuing to pray for our priests and for vocations to the priesthood.

I will finish with a quote from Saint Teresa of Avila: "Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands, no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes with which Christ looks out his compassion to the world. Yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which he is to bless us now."

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