



*From the Desk of Father Peter*

*Baptism of the Lord: The Spirit Descended*



*I know of a deacon who liked to conduct the interviews of parents whose children were about to be baptized. During the interviews, he asked the parents to describe what would happen to their child through baptism. He would receive various answers. Some parents spoke about cleansing from original sin. Others spoke about their child being welcomed into the Church. These were all correct answers, but what the deacon was really longing and hoping to hear one of the parents say was that their child would receive the HOLY SPIRIT. The gospel passage we hear today for the Baptism of the Lord speaks of heaven opening and the Holy Spirit descending upon Jesus like a dove.*

*We often associate the coming of the Holy Spirit with Pentecost and the Sacrament of Confirmation, but the Holy Spirit first descended upon us the day of our baptism so that we could go forth to be Christian witnesses in the world. It is correct to say that our Baptism cleansed us of original sin and made us members of the Church. But after we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, we are called to go forth from our parishes and bring the good news of Jesus into the world.*

*The Holy Spirit, whether we know it or not, has been with us since our Baptism, and wants to make a difference in our lives. This*

*simple truth of our faith can fill us with great confidence. There may be ominous threats in the world, to our faith in God. We may face struggles and temptations of the evil one. We may have to battle the annoyances of our own shortcomings in the faith as well as our sinful tendencies. But no matter what challenge is set before us we do not ever have to be afraid because we belong to God. His Holy Spirit has conquered all. How? By the Holy Spirit, God wants to help us navigate the murky or tumultuous water we face every day. The same Holy Spirit who reveals Jesus to us today can also unmask those spirits that want to turn us away from Jesus.*

*Remember the words: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased." Matthew 3:17. Let us start experimenting today. In our prayer, let us ask the Holy Spirit to open our eyes to God's ways in the world. Then let us follow His guidance in the choices we make. We will find that the more we listen, the easier it gets to hear! Let us in this year of 2023 try to find a good book that explains the Catholic faith and learn to know the treasure of the faith we share.*



*May we all be blessed this New Year of 2023 by God's grace. Peace and Love to all,*

*Fr. Peter Enyan-Boadu*