



Trinity News

Advent II – December 5, 2010

“Someone to watch over me”

All of us need an encourager. Sometimes it comes at unexpected moments. Someone comes along and says words that enhance our life.

John the Baptist was such a person for Jesus. He was the first to recognise him. He says several defining things about Jesus.

1. The Baptist claims that he is not worthy to stoop down and put on or take off Jesus' sandals. Only a truly humble person can say meaningful words about a truly great person. Such a person is not seeking anything from the model of greatness in front of them. John puts himself lower than any servant, and from there he is privileged to look up to Jesus. His words ring true.
2. According to the Fourth Gospel, the Baptist sees Jesus passing by one day and calls him “The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world”. John the prophet sees not only Jesus, but the Cross. His prophetic insight may have perceived the Passover lambs being slain at the life and death hour of the Cross. The Baptist is the first to recognise the Messiah. He is the first among his contemporaries to link the Messiah with his destined sacrificial death. Have you met someone who gave you your first recognition? Have you met someone who enlarges your gifts extravagantly and minimises your weaknesses? Such a person really loves you. Rejoice and be thankful!
3. John foreshadows what will become the heart of Christian spirituality: “I have baptized with water; but he will baptize with the Holy Spirit” (Mark 1:8). All of the Gospels report these words. The Spirit descends “like a dove” on Jesus at his baptism, an endowment for his ministry.

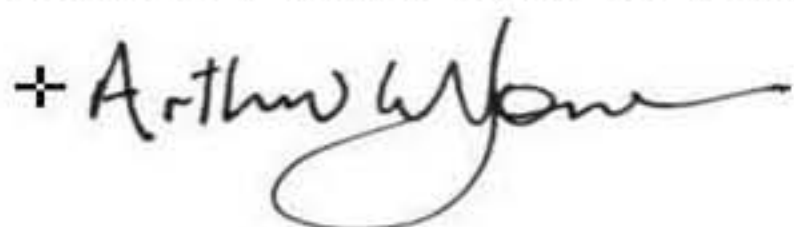
He pours out the Spirit long before Pentecost. He pours it out in healings and teaching and miracles soaked in love. Wherever Jesus walked, there was the Spirit of God. He prayed in the Spirit. So do we, in imitation of Christ. John saw the in-breaking of the Kingdom and the flowing-out of the spirit of God's love through Jesus the Messiah.

John's prophecies about Jesus may well have helped define Jesus' own perception of his role and destiny.

Trust humble people when they speak words of wisdom to you that aid in your self-recognition.

Disregard all quick-fixes. Inner healing is costly and it takes time. Our destiny will remain unfulfilled unless we tap into our real gifts and our most obvious talents: what we do best. Ultimately, Christ's greatest gift to humanity was to be the Lamb of God, the one who takes away the sin of the world. It was enormously costly, as all great gifts are in some way. But with the gift comes vindication, because we are free "at last" to be truly ourselves. With Christ, it came with Resurrection.

We need to recall, that like Christ, we do not walk alone. The Paraclete, the Advocate of Jesus, walks with us. The Paraclete infuses us with God's presence and begs us to share the love of the Spirit of Jesus with others. If we do that we that, we will continue to affirm the Baptist as a true prophet, because his words about the Master are still coming true through us.



Bishop Arthur Jones

Your prayers are asked in our healing ministry for Diana Croyston, JPeter, Beryl Tanner, Ron Thoburn, Suzanne Jacobson, Cena Quiapos, Ron Jacob, Bonnie SyCip, Fidelia Matthews, Jovel Llagas, Ted Whale, Emma Duhaylongsod, Amy Gonzales, Emerinciana Gatela, Carrie Angus, Augusto Natividad, Avelina Collado, Eric Williamson, Jaqueline Acquiatan, Susan Dalmas, Carlyn-Fern Manning, Richard Kendall, Johnny Manning Jr, Sunny Cabanang, Valerie Jones, Fr. Barry Cumberland, Gloria Domingo, Katsi Araneta, Emilie Nauntofte, Marian Kermanshahchi, Rosaline Soulsby, Divinagracia Benitez, Les Vye-Parminter, Wilson Teh, Rey del Rosario, Jose Songco

TO PLAN:

Today.

- Sunday school, 9:15
- Pageant rehearsal after the 9:30 service, Parish Hall

Dec. 7, Tuesday.

- Bible Study, 10am
- Bible Study, 7:15pm (#3 Sta. Potenciana, Urdaneta Village

Dec. 9, Thursday.

- Midweek Eucharist, 10am, Chapel

Next week's readings:

- Isaiah 35:1-10
- Psalm 146
- James 5:7-10
- Matthew 11:2-11

	Last Sunday	Year-to-date	Proportionate Budget	2010 Budget
Pledge	P248,000	P3,813,091.30	P3,600,000	P3,900,000
Loose Plate	P13,630	P784,818.54	P867,692.31	P940,000

The church's monthly **Sources & Uses** report is available for viewing in the Church Office. Please look for Maricel. For questions, feel free to email Edison at edisonyap@gmail.com