

**As we begin the “The First Week of Ordinary Time” ie.: Jesus begins His public ministry after the “Baptism of the Lord;” I want to revisit a story that shows us the power and the love of a Father that we receive upon our entrance into the Bride of Christ / His Church / Our Spiritual Family.
(Enjoy: Father Vic Gournas)**

Lets begin with a quote from Maximus of Turin:

-This feast of the Lord’s baptism, could also be called the feast of his birthday...Why?

-When he was born a man, his mother Mary held him close to her heart; when he is born in mystery, God the Father embraces him with his voice when he says: This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased: listen to him.

-In Baptism we are Anointed: Priest, Prophet, King.

-In Jesus we also become a son of His Father / That is my Focus.

-Sonship in Baptism: A Father’s love through His Son / What does this mean for us? / The Father’s sending His Son.

God, our Father, loves us this much. Chris Stefanick shared this story.

In 1988 a 6.8 Magnitude Earthquake hit the 2nd largest city in Armenia / 30 Thousand people died in 4 minutes / A number of parents ran to a collapsed school / Mourning / A Father begins to move rocks and rubble one by one / At first people helped out / But after many hours they stopped / They had lost hope / People started mocking him / Until the Father hears his sons voice / After 38 hours of removing rocks and rubble / He picks up his son with bleeding hands / His son says: I knew you would come Dad / That is how much our heavenly Father loves us / And that is the faith we should have as His son / Father, I knew you would come / We should look at every circumstance in life with that simple faith of courage and patience / Because that simple faith can allow us to see and know the Father / That simple faith can move mountains / That simple faith can change our lives.

I will add:

This is why Mary said Yes / This is why Jesus came / This is why John danced in the womb / Jesus picks us up in His bleeding hands from the filth and rubble / He comes to us through Mary / And as Mary lifts Jesus up

to the Father in the Presentation / Jesus lifts you up to the Father / Jesus wants to save us from the rubble of sin and death / And give us to the Father.

This Divine Love of the Father is the Frame in which we should see everything in life including ourselves / We are loved this much by the Father / A Divine Love powerful enough to create an infinite Universe is ALL aimed at you / Accepting that much love is the hardest thing in Christianity / How to do this / Please look at the Crucifix and see Jesus looking at you / not at everyone else / No, He is Looking directly at You / He loves you that much / He was born to do this for you / Saints became Saints by meditating on the Passion / Which leads them to see how much they are worth and loved by God / Now say Thank You & remember the Father's words / This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased: listen to him.

Amen