

We are taken up into the mysteries of his life, until we reign together with him. *LG 7*

### **St. John Eudes**

We must continue to accomplish in ourselves the stages of Jesus' life and his mysteries and often to beg him to perfect and realize them in us and in his whole Church...For it is the plan of the Son of God to make us and the whole Church partake in his mysteries and to extend them to and continue them in us and in his whole Church. This is the plan for fulfilling his mysteries in us.

### **Matthew 3: 1-17**

What did John and the Jewish people mean by the title "Christ"?

- The word "Christ" is the Greek word for the Hebrew "messiah."
- In both languages, they literally mean: **One who is anointed**
- In the ancient kingdom of Israel, kings were anointed with oil, marking their ordination to the royal office.

**1 Samuel 10:1** The Prophet Samuel anointed the first king, Saul: "Then Samuel took a vial of oil and poured it on his head, and kissed him and said, 'Has not the LORD anointed you to be prince of his people Israel?'"

- Notice – the prophet pours the oil, but it is the LORD who anoints him king.

**1 Samuel 10:6**, "The Spirit of the LORD will come mightily upon you, and you shall prophesy with them and be turned into another man."

Once Saul has rejected God through Mortal sin (1 Samuel 15) and lost the Holy Spirit, God commands Samuel to anoint another man in his place: David.

**1 Samuel 16:13**, "Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward."

This anointing bestows:

1. the office of king,
2. the gift of the Holy Spirit
3. When John is asked if he is the "Christ", the *issue at hand is kingship*.

**Mark 1:7, and Matthew 3:11** John objects, saying, "I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I... he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."

- It is then that Jesus, in order to present Himself to be anointed king over Israel, comes down from Galilee to be baptized by John.

**Matthew 3:16** After Jesus submitted to John's baptism, "he went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove."

CCC 536 The Spirit whom Jesus possessed in fullness from his conception comes to rest on him (to show us) Jesus will be the source of the Spirit for all mankind.

- Jesus, as a divine Person with a divine nature, is always and eternally the only begotten Son of the Father.
- In His human nature, taken from Mary, Jesus was born into the line of David; so, like all the Davidic kings, He too must be anointed at a particular time and place.
- That time and place was His baptism at the Jordan.
  - Jesus did not come to the Jordan and to John to be washed of sin; rather, He came to Israel's last prophet to be anointed the final and everlasting King.

CCC 536 At his baptism the heavens were opened – the heavens that Adam's sin had closed – and the waters were sanctified by the descent of Jesus and the Spirit, a prelude to the new creation.

### **Three-fold Office of Christ**

783 Jesus Christ is the one whom the Father anointed with the Holy Spirit and established as **priest, prophet and king.**

- The whole people of God participate in these three offices of Christ
- And we bear responsibility for mission and service that flow from them

By virtue of our Baptism and Confirmation we are taken up into the mystery of the Baptism of Jesus so that what took place in him will take place in us – we are anointed with the Holy Spirit as priest, prophet and king.

### **Matthew 4:1-11 The Temptation of Jesus**

The Gospels speak of a time of solitude for Jesus in the desert immediately after his baptism by John.

- Driven by the Spirit into the desert,
- Jesus remains there for forty days without eating;
- he lives among the wild beasts,
- and angels minister to him. CCC 538 (Mark 1:12-13)

At the end of this time Satan tempts him three times,

- *seeking to compromise his filial attitude toward God.*

Jesus rebuffs these attacks, which recapitulate (repeat) the temptations

- of Adam in Paradise
- and of Israel in the desert,
- and the devil leaves him “until and opportune time.” 538

What was the temptation of Adam?

**John Paul II says that this is *the key for interpreting reality***

Original Sin is not simply the breaking of God's laws.

- Original Sin is the attempt to *abolish fatherhood*, the Fatherhood of God, by the temptation of the devil to seduce man into believing that he cannot trust God and His commands.
- According to this seduction, God does not truly love man as a Father. Rather, God is a master who wants to dominate and enslave man by His laws.
- As a result, the Lord appears jealous of His power over the world and over man and, consequently, man feels driven to fight against God to achieve freedom.

**John Paul II** pointed out that the only force capable of effectively counteracting this false view of God is the "Gospel of Christ, in which the paradigm of master-slave is radically transformed into the paradigm of father-son."

- **The Son's Trust in the Father**
- *God as a loving Father in whom His children may trust and entrust themselves without fear.*

**1 Peter 5:8** Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him firm in your faith...

**The devil wants to derail you from doing God's will**

1. He sows division
2. He casts doubt about your decisions

Resist the devil in three ways:

1. Live by reality rather than feelings
2. Prayer
3. Sacrament of Reconciliation

**The saving meaning of the temptation of Jesus:**

- Jesus is the new Adam who remained faithful just where the first Adam had given into temptation.
- Jesus fulfills Israel's vocation (to be a son of God) perfectly:
- In contrast to those who had once provoked God during forty years in the desert,
- Christ reveals himself as the model of a Son of God
- Totally obedient to his Father's will
- In this way Jesus is the devil's conqueror
- Jesus' victory over the tempter in the desert anticipates victory at the Passion, the supreme act of obedience of his filial love for the Father. CCC 539

**The Wedding of Cana**

CCC 725 Through Mary, the Holy Spirit begins to bring men...into communion with Christ. And the humble are always the first to accept him: shepherds, magi, Simeon and Anna, the bride and groom at Cana, and the first disciples.