

**DISCIPLES AND STEWARDS – Discipleship Questions – 2010**

**The Baptism of the Lord - Jesus calls us to discipleship, to follow Him**

As we witness again the Baptism of the Lord, we are impressed by the incredible **freedom** with which Jesus presents Himself to John. This closes the Christmas Season, as we remember that the Christ Child was given to us as an eternal gift by God our Father, inviting us to welcome his Son and accept to become his own children. At Epiphany, God began to reveal Jesus as his gift to all nations through the Magi who so **generously** expended time, effort, and resources to find God's Son by following an unusually bright star. Not long after his Baptism Jesus revealed more of who He is at the wedding feast at Cana, when He turned six large jars of water into a superabundance of wine, and an astoundingly good wine at that, and the **joy** of the kingdom of God erupted on Earth.

Though the Christmas Season ends this Sunday, the radiant light of Christmas and the Epiphany of the Son of God to the world will linger with us until the 40<sup>th</sup> day after Jesus' Nativity and we commemorate his Presentation in the Temple. While the Christmas decorations will come down this week, the Manger scene will remain until the last Sunday of January, when at all the Sunday Masses we will gather around the Manger with lit candles and give thanks to God for sending his divine Light into the world in his Son Jesus.

Beginning today and extending for the next three Sundays we will reflect on the new life offered to us by God our Father in Jesus. We will reflect on our new life of **freedom, generosity** in gratitude, and **joy** God offers us as his children in Jesus. He calls us to follow Jesus as his disciples, to live our life fully in Him, and to manage our Father's abundant blessings as good stewards of his creation, of our lives, of our families, and of our community.

We invite you to enter playfully, trustingly into the 4-week series as an ongoing reflection / retreat to allow the Lord to draw us into the formation He offered his apostles and disciples.... The questions are prompted in order by the 1st reading, Psalm, 2nd reading, and Gospel.

1. Like the One who sent the prophet Isaiah, Jesus comforts his people. Think of some people who are comforted by you and how it happens that you are a comfort to them....
2. If you could suggest a news headline telling people about a wonderful thing God is doing for people or in the world, what would that headline say?
3. Jesus lived a disciplined life so He could do some good. What are some disciplines you give yourself in order to be able to do good?
4. Jesus let Himself be led by the Holy Spirit to tell people about his Father's love. Think of when you were prompted by the Holy Spirit to talk about God and went ahead and did it, and another time when you didn't do it, for whatever reason.
5. Jesus deliberately tried to do his Father's will and at his baptism by John heard the Father say, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." Think of yourself as a disciple of Jesus and hear those words of the Father addressed to you – how does it feel? Think of some ways you could more deliberately try to do God's will and to live your days as a disciple of Jesus....and follow Him.