

2017-10-08, Series on the Mass, Part 93

*The Last Gospel, cont'd.*

"But as many as received him, he gave them power to be made the sons of God, to them that believe in his name" (Jn 1:12). We truly are made free by Almighty God, so free in fact that we can refuse to be with Him and He will respect that. But for those who want to become children of God, He will give us that power. It requires being born anew through Baptism, as our Lord told Nicodemus.

God sent His Son to prepare the way for us, and we have to do our part in uniting ourselves to Him. "For God so loved the world, as to give his only begotten Son; that whosoever believeth in him, may not perish, but may have life everlasting" (John 3:16). We have to believe in His name and be born, not of blood, not of the will of the flesh and not of the will of man, but of God. Faith is a condition of baptism. First we are born into this world naturally through the flesh, but this life is insufficient to become a child of God. In Baptism we are born of God, born to the supernatural life, and we grow through regular reception of Holy Communion. He has given us the power to become sons of God by grace in this world until we become so in glory in the world to come. We should strive to always be prepared to do anything necessary for our Lord, to undertake any enterprise, to suffer all things, for this is what it means to believe in His name, to be a true child of God.

*Rev. Charles Van Vliet, FSSP*

*Pastor, Regina Caeli Parish*