

# Second Hand Preacher

*17<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time*

July 24, 2016

**Colossians 2:12-14**

Baptism is a powerful sacrament. Through baptism, we are connected to Christ. The water represents both life and death. Original sin is wiped away and now there is a strong connection to both Jesus and the Church. When one receives this sacrament as an infant, there is much nurturing to take place. This can be done by both parents and Godparents. The plan is that this well-nurtured soul will be at the table of our Lord through the sacrament of Holy Communion. In the way our tradition is now, the young person receives the sacrament of Confirmation. In this sacrament, the Holy Spirit is the guide that helps us reconfirm our baptism.

In the time of St. Paul, things were a bit different. Most people were baptized as adults. Some had lived horrible lives of sin and they have repented. They were made new by the sacrament and original sin and all sin was forgiven. They had often been persecuted for the faith with some dying a martyr's death. They knew firsthand that Jesus died for them. They or some who were with them may have been connected to the actual event of the crucifixion of Jesus. The newly baptized would have been familiar with the paschal mystery. The passion, death, and resurrection would have shaped their lives for the better.

Even today there is suffering in the world. Dying to self and rising with Christ is still possible in our world today. We can give our suffering to God and he will make it the source of our salvation. We are to live our lives to the fullest always praising God. We need to draw close to Jesus, so that we may live connected to him in both life and death. We need to witness our faith by what we say and do in order to live out the paschal mystery.