

# Synodality Virtues: Baptismal Awareness



By Thomas O'Loughlin

***We put so much emphasis on the water of baptism, but too little on the anointing -- to our peril***

There are few aspects of Catholicism where the gap between the formal teaching and everyday awareness is so great as with baptism. If one reads documents from the Magisterium, catechisms or theology books, it is immediately clear that baptism is important. The beginning of the Christian pilgrimage, new life, incorporation into the Christ, dying and rising with him, being overshadowed by the Spirit, being enabled to call on God as Father in the midst of the church, becoming part of the priestly People, being able to stand in

God's presence and make intercession in the Prayer of the Faithful ... .. and on and on .

## **In theory ...**

Indeed, the Vatican's Catechism of the Catholic Church explicitly devoted 71 articles to it (no.1213-1284) and one could multiply that figure several times if one counted incidental references to it. Here is just a flavor: Baptism makes us members of the Body of Christ: "Therefore ... we are members one of another" [Eph 4:25] Baptism incorporates us into the Church. From the baptismal fonts is born the one People of God of the New Covenant, which transcends all the natural or human limits of nations, cultures, races, and sexes: 'For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body' [1 Cor 12:13] (no.1267).The baptized have become 'living stones' to be 'built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood' [1 Peter 2:5]. By Baptism they share in the priesthood of Christ, in his prophetic and royal mission. They are 'a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that [they] may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called [them] out of darkness in his marvelous light' [1 Peter 2:9]. Baptism gives a share in the common priesthood of all believers (no.1268).Pope Francis constantly makes a link between baptism and a synodal Church ... and then this is copied by others in their statements. Baptism is now one of our buzzwords in preparation for the 2023 assembly of the Synod of Bishops.

Read more at: <https://international.la-croix.com/news/religion/synodality-virtues-baptismal-awareness/15599>