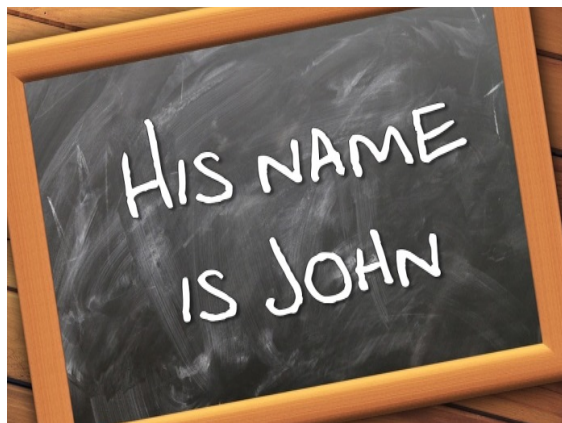


THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES
June 24, 2018
The Nativity of St. John, the Baptist
Isaiah 49:1-6 + Acts of the Apostles 13:22-26 + Luke 1:57-66, 80



Reflection by: Carol Van Billiard, OP

At the door of the Church, the priest asks "What name do you give your child?" and then, "What do you ask of the Church?"

During the actual ceremony of Baptism, I wonder, do some members of the assembly, and especially, the parents ask, "What will this child be?" We hope that with the support of family, friends and community, the child will grow in wisdom, age and grace and know what it is God wants of him or her.

In today's Gospel, we hear that the son of Elizabeth and Zechariah was given the name John at his rite of Circumcision. John was the name given to him by the angel when speaking with Zechariah in the temple. The angel also foretold John's future. The relatives and townspeople wondered what this child would become.

In the desert, "He grew and became strong in spirit until the day of his manifestation to Israel." He came forth from the desert to announce the coming of the one foretold by the prophets. He came to announce the reign of God. He came to call the people to repentance.

I saw a sign in front of one of the churches that said "John the Baptist: a Man for Today." True, because we know that the mission of John is the same as that of any baptized person in this society: ***to proclaim that Jesus is Lord, and that the reign of God is here!***