



January 10, 2010

Dear Parishioners,

In Mitch Albom's latest book, **Have A Little Faith**, (I referred to it in my Christmas Day homily), there is a quite moving passage as the Rabbi recalls the painful loss of his 4 year-old daughter Rinah, a name which means "joy".

At that time, he remembers cursing God. And Albom asks:

"Did you feel guilty cursing God—you, of all people?"
"No", he said. "Because even in doing so, I was recognizing
there was a greater power than me.
He paused.
"And that is how I began to heal." (p. 181)

The Rabbi changes when he recognizes there is a "greater power" than him. And, in that awareness he begins to heal.

In the Gospel this weekend, Jesus is baptized by John in the Jordan River. It is there, in that water, where God's voice breaks through into Jesus' life, and with divine clarity opens him to the awareness of God seeded in his flesh: that there is a "greater power". In those waters, he senses his unique, unfathomable mystery in ways that change the course of his life. When he emerges from those waters, he enters the desert; from there he inaugurates his ministry of healing.

On this Feast of the Lord's Baptism, may this same Spirit stir to life the mystery of our baptism that each of us might recognize there is "a greater power than me": that I am utterly dependent upon God who is my life. This recognition alone opens us to the mercy and healing flowing from Christ.

Pastor