

Jesus does not need the baptism John is administering, but he goes to the banks of the Jordan anyway, where people's sins are being removed like clots dissolved in running water; where sinners overcome their fear of revealing themselves for what they are: persons who need to rediscover their humanity.

So Jesus joins the line of sinners. He is a God who comes to find us in the most fragile and darkest parts of our nature, in the parts of us we try to hide. This act of his helps me realize that I should no longer be afraid of the parts of me that are dark, because if I am seeking the Lord, he is in those parts of me too.

John doesn't want to baptize Jesus, who nevertheless insists.

"Let's do it this way for now," he says. John does not understand him and perhaps none of us will ever fully grasp how the apex of love can sprout in the darkest and deepest pit of our human nature. How can we understand a God who, out of love, descends into our depths to touch our core, where every trace of humanity seems to be obliterated?

How can God allow himself to be beaten and killed out of love for us?



Baptism of the Lord 2023

Matthew 3:13-17

“LET’S DO IT THIS WAY”

*We are still too afraid, Lord.
You ask us to let you do things your way,
which means to let you love us.
We are still too fragile and afraid, Lord.
But you ask us to “do it this way,”
which prompts us to believe that you make
your home in even the darkest corners
of our lives and of human history.
You, Lord, are the God who comes to dwell
in the places in which I am farthest away from myself.
You are the God who comes to inhabit my fears and sins.
You are the God who defiles himself with my diseases,
my twists and turns, my betrayals.
And once again I am amazed to find you there.
Your incredible tenderness astounds me.*

Fr. Alessandro Deho'