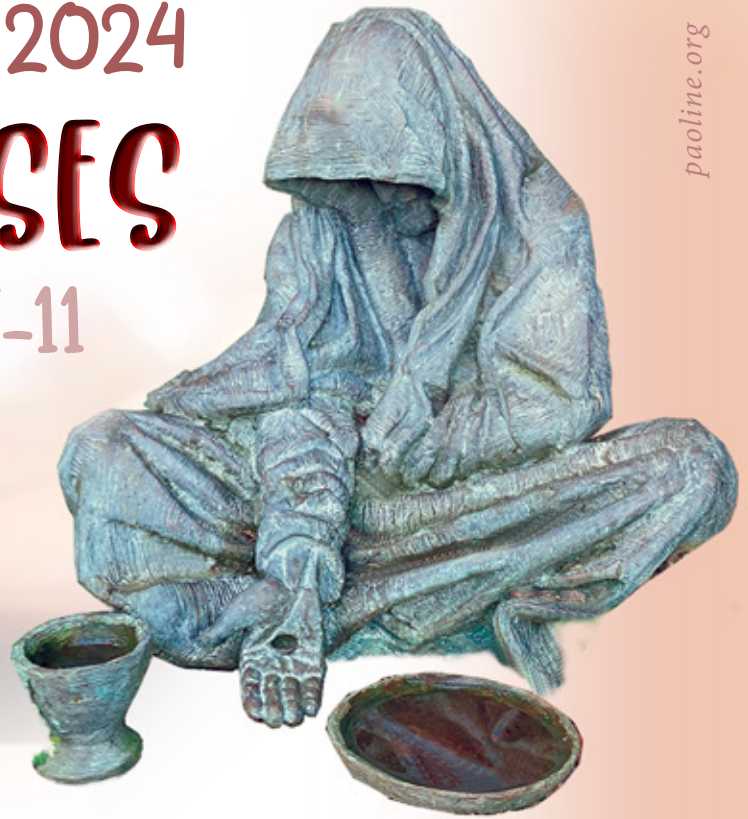


Baptism of the Lord 2024

COMPROMISES

Mark 1:7-11

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What the Messiah wants to do, what the Son of God wants to accomplish, is to immerse himself in humanity. People's judgments are very forceful against a God who does this without fear of being "contaminated." The Son of God immerses himself in the homes of sinners, in the exploited days of prostitutes.

He is a God who is not stopped by the actions of publicans, traitors and murderers.

He is a God who immerses himself in others to tell us that without this all-encompassing and loving entry into the lives of our brothers and sisters, our actions are doomed to failure.

A God who immerses himself in human cast-offs in this way will attract the condemnation of those who, considering themselves blameless, judge the morality of others.

Can't he see that they are using him?

Doesn't he realize that he is associating with

sinners? What is the point of becoming like them?

He can't even distinguish between who is for him and who is against him, so how can he claim to be the Messiah?

Probably the same thoughts also passed through the mind of John the Baptist. Who know if he at least saw the heavens open or if it was only Jesus who heard the voice of the Father say, *I love you this way. You are the truth of who I am. In you, the heavens can finally open to reveal the depths of Love.*

Jesus chooses to love to the point of immersing himself in the mystery of the human being, confident that heaven will always be ready to open its doors and say, *I love you this way, my Son. You are the image of my desire.*

Fr. Alessandro Deho'