

DECEMBER 27, 2019
Feast of St. John, Apostle & Evangelist
John 20: 2-8

BELIEVE - HE WILL KEEP HIS PROMISES

Two days after Christmas, the birth of Jesus, our gospel is talking about the tomb and the resurrection of Jesus. As we celebrate the feast of St. John the Evangelist, we are being reminded that life is so short. Today we are here, tomorrow we are gone.

The birth of Jesus brought life to others – life not only here on earth but in heaven. In the gospels, “Saints John and James followed John the Baptist when he preached repentance in the wilderness of Jordan. There can be little doubt that the two disciples, whom Saint John does not name (John 1:35), who looked on Jesus "as he walked," when the Baptist exclaimed with prophetic perception, "Behold the Lamb of God!" were Andrew and John. They followed and asked the Lord where he dwelt. He told them come and see, and they stayed with him all day. It was probably the starting-point of the entire devotion of heart and soul which lasted through the life of the Beloved Apostle.”¹ There are lot of instances that St. John the Evangelist referred to as the Beloved Disciple, John the Divine, and the disciple whom Jesus Loved. “To John was committed by our Lord the highest of privileges, the care of his mother [John 19:27]. John and Peter were the first to receive the news from the Magdalene of the Resurrection [John 20:2], and they hastened at once to the sepulchre, and there when Peter was restrained by awe, John impetuously "reached the tomb first.”²

In our gospel for today, we wonder and question why John is telling us that he ran faster than Peter, and that he waited for Peter to enter the tomb first? John is telling us

¹ www.catholic.org

² Ibid

that he has no doubt about Mary Magdalene's news that Jesus Christ is risen. He wanted to see through his own eyes what he believed in. He was like a child running to get his greatest gifts. He ran with a sense of necessity and urgency. He was confidently excited to see what he wanted to see. He waited for Peter because he knew and believed that the Lord is not in the tomb, He is Risen.

My brothers and sisters, we are invited by St. John to run like him: convinced, confident, excited and fearless because we know that the Lord keeps his promises always. The birth of Jesus is a manifestation that God will never abandon or betray us because He wants us to be near to us – He dwells among us. So, let us run to our Lord with great and deep faith in knowing what to expect and what to find: his promises fulfilled today and always. Keep your faith, believe and trust the Lord, He will keep His promises. So, let us ask the intercession of St. John the Evangelist that we may have that kind of faith and believe that all things will happen according to God's promises.