

**The people were filled with expectation and many were asking whether John might be the Christ...**

**The Greeks understood the vagaries of human nature.**

**Greek mythology is filled with tales of hubris being the undoing of high acheivers.**

**Achilles had his heel.**

**And even children's nursery rhymes reveal human frailty when the human is raised up high:**

**"Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall.**

**Humpty Dumpty had a great fall!"**

**□ In modern literature, *Bonfire of the Vanities* traces one soul's ascendance to the heights and then his plunge into the depths.**

**(Donald Trump could be today's poster boy for hubris.)**

**John the Baptist was also a □ high acheiver.**

**At his ascendance, he was better known and more influential than Jesus.**

**He was "Number One!" in the eyes of the people.**

**SO: JESUS WAS BAPTIZED BY JOHN!**

**We live in a competitive, consumer driven culture.**

**Being number one is our ultimate goal.**

**Yet John the Baptist stepped aside for Jesus.**

**..."one mightier than I than I am coming!" said John.**

**This is remarkable in any age.**

**During his baptism by John, Jesus went into the depths.**

**He is the "Jesus With Muddy Feet!"**

**Pope Francis is enjoining us to go deeper.**

**Go deeper and be with all the folks with dirty feet!**

**This is to be a year of renewed mercy.**

**Mercy entails bending down, and lifting up again.**

**That is God's Mercy to us: bending down, and lifting up.**

**Mercy in some ways is a microcosm of our own baptism in which we go down into the deep water, only to be lifted up and out into new life,**

**For Jesus the opposite of hubris was allowing John to baptize him.**

**And for John stepping aside was the opposite of hubris.**

**So in today's feast we have both John and Jesus showing us the remedy for hubris.**

**And Mercy is our path: bending down and lifting up:**

**THE DOWN AND OUT ONES!**

**And so we pray:**

***Renew our baptisms O God.***

***Bend down and lift us up,***

## **Baptism of the Lord, Jan. 10, 2016**

Written by Fr. Fitz

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***not to hubris,***

***but to mercy!***

***Lord have mercy.***

***Christ have mercy.***

***Lord have mercy!***

***Amen.***□