

SERMON 807

24th Week after Pentecost

Holy Baptism of Adriana Mercedes Latorre

November 9, 2013

918th Week as Priest

744th Week at St Dunstan's

9th Week at Epiphany-Tallassee



¡Bienvenidos a todos!

Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Your life is of infinite importance to God our Father. The Christian faith is unique among world religions in recognizing this essential truth. And not only do we believe that *your* life is of infinite importance to God, we believe that *every* life is sacred and holy to God—*each* person: Sofia, Alexandra, Juan Carlos, Monika, Maria, Augustin, Humberto, Magdalena, Marlen, Augie—and yes, most certainly, the life of Adriana Mercedes Latorre.

It should come as no surprise. After all, **Adriana** is made in the image of **God**, as are we all. **But Adriana** is truly a miracle baby. Not only was she a surprise to Johnny and Monika, **Adriana** was eight weeks early and weighed just over three pounds when she was born. She had a difficult beginning, but that is sometimes the case, isn't it?

My first grandson, who is named after me, spent his first ten days in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. The little girl that my children recently adopted, Stella Rebekah, my brother's orphaned granddaughter, also had a rough start. **But** they have each proven to be fighters and each is an incredible blessing to their families. "A baby is born with a need to be loved," said **Adriana's** godmother, "and never outgrows it."

Not only do we believe that life is holy, we have undeniable proof. At the fullness of time, **God the Father** sent his only Son to be born of a human mother, to make this the way of life, that we might receive adoption as his children.

This, dear friends, is why we baptize all who come to us in the Name of the **Father**, and the **Son**, and of the **Holy Spirit**. It is not something we earn or deserve, it is a gift from **God**; it is an outward and visible sign of **God's** inward and spiritual grace.

And today, we have the gift of **God's** infinite grace and mercy in baptizing **Adriana Mercedes Latorre**.

We welcome her into the **H**ousehold of **G**od. **A**driana is sealed by the **H**oly Spirit in **B**aptism, and marked as **C**hrist's own forever.

We are honored and happy that the Latorre family has come to be a part of St **D**unstan's **E**piscopal **C**hurch, and we welcome all of **A**driana's family and friends, her sisters, her godparents, her grandparents, and you.

¡Bienvenidos a todos! AMEN.