

June 24, 2008  
Tuesday of the Twelfth Week in Ordinary Time  
Solemnity of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist

Readings of the day may be found on the following link:

<http://www.nccbuscc.org/nab>

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Psalms 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5-6ab, 15ab and 17

1 Peter 1:8-12

Luke 1:5-17

*"What, then, will this child be?"  
For surely the hand of the Lord was with him.  
The child grew and became strong in spirit,  
and he was in the desert until the day  
of his manifestation to Israel.*

I remember asking this very question with the birth of each of my children. Who will they become? What will they be like? I had many dreams for them, dreams that changed many times over the years because letting go of my dreams for them was part of my spiritual journey. Our dreams as parents so often get in the way of their growing in spirit and grace, for our dreams are small whereas God's dreams are big. I wanted them to be happy, but my understanding and measure of happiness was not as clear back then as it is today. I thought happiness was success and security; God's plan for happiness is purpose, connection, and above all union. I learned to let go, but as it is with most parents, it was not an easy journey. It takes a lifetime to see the hand of God in our lives.

*To put the world right in order, we must first put the nation in order; to put the nation in order, we must first put the family in order; to put the family in order, we must first cultivate our personal life; we must first set our hearts right.*

Confucius

*Never forget that the purpose for which a man lives is the improvement of the man himself, so that he may go out of this world having, in his great sphere or his small one, done some little good for his fellow creatures and labored a little to diminish the sin and sorrow that are in the world.*

William E. Gladstone