

ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI 2019
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ARS CELEBRANDI FOR BAPTISM

CHRISTIAN INITIATION:

GENERAL INTRODUCTION 3

Baptism, the door to life and to the kingdom, is the first Sacrament of the New Law, which Christ offered to all that they might have eternal life and which, together with the Gospel, he later entrusted to his Church, when he commanded his Apostles: "Go, teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." Therefore Baptism is first and foremost the Sacrament of that faith by which human beings, enlightened by the grace of the Holy Spirit, respond to the Gospel of Christ.

CHRISTIAN INITIATION:

GENERAL INTRODUCTION 4-6

Furthermore, Baptism is the Sacrament by which human beings are incorporated into the Church and are built up together into a dwelling place of God in the Spirit...

Moreover, the washing with water in the word of life, which is what Baptism is, cleanses human beings of every stain of sin, both original and personal, and makes them sharers in the divine nature and in filial adoption....

Therefore, the joy of the resurrection should shine forth in the celebration of Baptism, especially when it takes place during the Easter Vigil or on a Sunday.

THE AGE OF THE CHILD

- Catechetical age
 - Full preparation and celebration similar to adults
- Time between birth and baptism
 - "within the first few weeks after birth" (CCL 867 §1)



RITE OF BAPTISM FOR CHILDREN 5 §1

DONEC QUIS NUNC

Before the celebration of the Sacrament it is very helpful for the parents, either led by their own faith, or aided by the support of their friends or of other members of the community, to prepare themselves for an informed participation in the celebration by suitable means, such as books, articles, and catechisms aimed at the family. Furthermore the pastor of the parish should take care to meet with them himself or through others, or even to bring together several families, to prepare them for the coming celebration by pastoral instructions and prayer in common.

RITE OF BAPTISM FOR CHILDREN 5 §1

They should be provided with suitable means such as books, letters addressed to them, and catechisms designed for families. The pastor should make it his duty to visit them or see that they are visited; he should try to gather a group of families together and prepare them for the coming celebration by pastoral counsel and common prayer.



THE PRIEST'S DUTIES

OBC 7

- Prepare families for baptism, help with formation of children
- "2) It is for pastors to make every effort that each Baptism be celebrated with due dignity and that it be accommodated, as far as possible, to the circumstances and wishes of the families. Whoever is conferring Baptism should carry out the rite carefully and reverently; he should strive above all to be courteous and affable to everyone."

THE HOMILY

OBC 29, 2B

- The Homily is based on the sacred text, but should take into consideration the Baptism being celebrated.
- [The role of deacons at mass]



GODPARENTS

- Padrinos support & bond
- Morbid cultural expectations
- Family members
- Parishioners
- Proxies
- Discuss expectations
- One or two godparents, if two, male and female; if one, either sex



BAPTISMAL SPONSORS - CANON 874 § 1

To be permitted to take on the function of sponsor a person must:

- 1/ be designated by the one to be baptized, by the parents or the person who takes their place, or in their absence by the pastor or minister and have the aptitude and intention of fulfilling this function;
- 2/ have completed the sixteenth year of age, unless the diocesan bishop has established another age, or the pastor or minister has granted an exception for a just cause;
- 3/ be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the most holy sacrament of the Eucharist and who leads a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on;
- 4/ not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared;
- 5/ not be the father or mother of the one to be baptized.

THE CHRISTIAN WITNESS

CANON 874 §2

- A baptized person who belongs to a non-Catholic ecclesial community is not to participate except together with a Catholic sponsor and then only as a witness of the baptism



THE CHRISTIAN WITNESS

- Only Catholics are “godparents” for Catholic baptisms
- With one godparent, there may be a Christian witness
- May be male or female
- Entering the baptismal register



LITURGICAL EXPECTATIONS

- “Are you ready to help these parents in their duty as Christian mothers and fathers?”
- Renew baptismal vows
- May assist in lighting the child’s candle
- Serve again as confirmation sponsor



PREPARING FOR THE OPENING QUESTION

- “What do you ask of God’s Church for **N**?”
 - “Baptism”
- Parents may use other words
 - “Faith”
 - “The Grace of Christ”
 - “Entry into the Church”
 - “Eternal life”



PREPARING OTHER DECISIONS

- Will parents or godparents hold the child?
 - The rite prefers the parents
- How will the child be dressed?
 - The white garment issue
- Immersion or pouring?
 - The rite prefers immersion



CHRISTIAN INITIATION: GENERAL INTRODUCTION

22: As the rite for baptizing, either immersion, which is more suitable as a symbol of participation in the death and resurrection of Christ, or pouring may lawfully be used.



BUILT OF LIVING STONES

69/2: The font should be large enough to supply ample water for the baptism of both adults and infants. Since baptism in Catholic churches may take place by immersion in the water, or by infusion (pouring), fonts that permit all forms of baptismal practice are encouraged.



PHOTOGRAPHY



