

THE ORDER OF BAPTISM OF CHILDREN

ENGLISH TRANSLATION ACCORDING
TO THE SECOND TYPICAL EDITION

Participation Booklet

Arranged for Communal Participation

**Order of Baptism for Several Children
Order of Baptism for One Child**

With the People's Parts Printed in Boldface Type

For Use in the Dioceses of the United States of America

Approved by the
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
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LETTER TO NEW PARENTS

YOUR child is born. What joy you must feel! The moment you held the infant in your arms you may have wondered: “What will our child become?”

In some way, the answer depends on you, for the child is yours.

Who Is This Child of Yours?

By baptizing your child, you decide that your baby will be a Christian, a member of Christ’s body, the Church. You could not choose anything more precious.

By baptizing your child, you recognize your child is a child of God, with a lifelong mission prepared for him or her. You put your dear one in God’s hands in this Sacrament and commit your child to the loving care of Jesus Christ, God’s Son.

Your child is our child, too. As you gather family, friends, and neighbors to celebrate this new life, you invite others to help your child on life’s journey. “It takes a village to raise a child,” says an old African proverb. At Baptism you introduce your child to the wider human family.

Teaching Your Child God’s Ways

As parents you are your child’s first teachers of faith. You will bring your child to church; from you your son or daughter will learn day by day to

no evil would I fear, for you are with me.
Your crook and your staff will give me comfort.
You have prepared a table before me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the LORD's own house shall I dwell
for length of days unending.

CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

When they have come to the font, the celebrant briefly reminds those present of the wonderful plan of God, who willed to sanctify the human soul and body through water. He may do this in these or similar words:

A

Let us pray, dear brothers and sisters,
that the Lord God Almighty may bestow new life
on these children
by water and the Holy Spirit.

Or:

B

Dear brothers and sisters,
you know that God graciously bestows
his abundant life through the sacrament of water
on those who believe.
Let us then raise our minds to him,
and with one heart pray
that he may be pleased to pour out his grace
from this font
upon these chosen ones.

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the blessing and invocation of God over the water takes place in accordance with the formulas found in the *Order of Baptism*, using the textual variation given at the end of these same formulas.

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

The celebrant instructs the parents and godparents in these words:

Dear parents and godparents:
through the Sacrament of Baptism
the children you have presented
are about to receive from the love of God
new life by water and the Holy Spirit.

For your part, you must strive to bring them up
in the faith,
so that this divine life may be preserved from the
contagion of sin,
and may grow in them day by day.

If your faith makes you ready to accept this
responsibility,
then, mindful of your own Baptism,
renounce sin and profess faith in Christ Jesus,
the faith of the Church,
in which children are baptized.

Then the celebrant questions them:

A

Do you renounce Satan?

Parents and godparents:

I do.

Celebrant:

And all his works?

HANDING ON OF A LIGHTED CANDLE

The celebrant then takes the paschal candle and says:
Receive the light of Christ.

One member of the family (e.g., the father or godfather) lights a candle for the child from the paschal candle.

Then the celebrant then says:
Parents and godparents,
this light is entrusted to you to be kept burning
brightly,
so that your child, enlightened by Christ,
may walk always as a child of the light
and, persevering in the faith,
may run to meet the Lord when he comes
with all the Saints in the heavenly court.

“EPHPHATHA”

In the United States, the “Ephphatha” Rite takes place at the discretion of the celebrant. The celebrant touches the ears and mouth of the child with his thumb, saying:

May the Lord Jesus,
who made the deaf to hear and the mute to
speak,
grant that you may soon receive his word with
your ears
and profess the faith with your lips,
to the glory and praise of God the Father.

All:
Amen.

I saw water flowing from the temple, and all who were touched by it were saved (see Roman Missal, antiphon for blessing and sprinkling holy water during Easter Time).

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel

The angel brought me, Ezekiel,
back to the entrance of the temple of the
Lord,
and I saw water flowing out
from beneath the threshold of the temple
toward the east,
for the façade of the temple was toward the
east;
the water flowed down from the right side
of the temple,
south of the altar.
He led me outside by the north gate,
and around to the outer gate facing the east,
where I saw water trickling from the right
side.
Then when he had walked off to the east
with a measuring cord in his hand,
he measured off a thousand cubits
and had me wade through the water,
which was ankle-deep.
He measured off another thousand
and once more had me wade through the
water,
which was now knee-deep.
Again he measured off a thousand and had me
wade;
the water was up to my waist.