

Baptism

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General questions

What are the main concepts about Baptism I want them to understand? I want them to understand what baptism is, why it is done, who it is done to, how it is done, where it is done and when it is done.

What is the action I hope they will do after this talk? I hope that they will have a greater appreciation for the sacrament and understand the critical nature they play in it.

1. Introduction to Baptism

- a. Baptism is a sacrament of new birth which forgives sins and makes us members of Christ and his church
- b. Baptism is necessary for salvation and allows us to receive other sacraments
- c. Baptism can be given to anyone who hasn't received it yet and has faith.
- d. In baptism water and the Trinitarian formula is used.
- e. Baptism is usually done in a church and is given to adults on Easter Vigil or to an infant shortly after birth.

2. What is Baptism?

- a. It is a sacrament - The sacraments are efficacious signs of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us. The visible rites by which the sacraments are celebrated signify and make present the graces proper to each sacrament. They bear fruit in those who receive them with the required dispositions.(CCC 1131)
- b. It is a new birth into heaven
 - i. Council of Trent – “the water regenerates the soul by virtue of the Holy Spirit. The ablution ('washing') of the water, sensible element, and the effusion of the Spirit, divine element, join to produce the supernatural birth” Christ came to earth, divine became human and so to humans become divine
 - ii. We are adopted sons and daughters, a child of God
 - iii. It grafts us onto the vine who is Christ.
 - iv. It is a regeneration, a healing and restoring of the person
 - v. Seed which now has potential of eternal life and we decide
- c. Faith is required – Adult or parent/sponsor for child
- d. Prefigured in OT
 - i. Creation, the Spirit moved over the waters (a symbol of life) (CCC 1218)
 - ii. Noah's Ark (salvation through it) (CCC 1219)
 - iii. Crossing of the Red Sea (liberation from sin) (CCC 1221)
 - iv. Crossing of the Jordon (allows us to enter promised land, eternal life) (CCC 1222)
 - v. Purification rites of priests and people for ritual
- e. Instituted
 - i. Christ's baptism in the Jordon
 - ii. Jesus' gesture is a manifestation of his self-emptying(CCC 1224) (Why would he need baptism if didn't have any sins)
 - iii. Baptism of Christ was in the incarnation, baptism in Jordan was a sign of baptism but was the confirmation of Christ.(TO)

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3. Why

- a. Necessary for Salvation
 - i. Christ said baptism was necessary (CCC 1257)
 - ii. Church knows of no other means to assure salvation (CCC 1257)
 - iii. God has bound salvation to the sacrament but is not bound by the sacrament, He can save other ways (CCC 1257)
 1. Baptism of blood are that those who suffer death for the sake of the faith (CCC 1258)
 2. Baptism of desire are Catechumenates who die before baptism (CCC 1259)
 3. Implicit baptism for those who are ignorant of “the Gospel of Christ and of his Church, but seeks the truth and does the will of God in accordance with his understanding of it, can be saved.” (CCC 1260)
 4. Children who die without baptism are left to the mercy of God (CCC 1261)
- b. Effects
 - i. Baptismal regeneration
 1. a new creature
 2. a new relationship with the Trinity (adopted sons and daughters, coheirs with Christ)
 3. cleansing from sin
 - a. original sin
 - b. personal sin
 - c. all punishment from sin
 - d. temporal consequences remain (sickness, illness, habits)
 4. sanctifying grace – Holy Spirit comes and makes us holy
 5. infused virtues and gifts of Holy Spirit
 6. temple of Holy Spirit, divine indwelling
 7. Bond of unity amongst all Christians
 - ii. Sacramental Character
 1. indelible mark indicating I belong to God
 2. empowers me to execute the baptismal (common priesthood)
 - a. receive other sacraments
 - b. capable of worshiping in Spirit and in Truth
 - iii. Incorporation into the Church, a new member of the Body of Christ

4. Who

- a. General
 - i. Those who do not have a Christian baptism – needs to have the correct matter, form, and intention. There is a list of acceptable ones and not others.
 - ii. If there is doubt if there is a baptism, a conditional baptism can be done.
- b. Adults
 - i. Started off this way as many converts in early Church
 - ii. Received all three sacraments of initiation
- c. Children are considered to be Adults once the age of reason is met (CCL 852.1)
- d. Infants
 - i. Original sin helped stress the importance of baptism

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- ii. It is the key to salvation so don't want to die without it
 - iii. Penance was greater available, not offered just once in your lifetime but many times
 - e. Parents
 - i. To be instructed in what baptism means and their responsibilities (CCL 851.2)
 - ii. The faith of the parents represents the faith of the infant for the parents will teach the faith and fulfill Church obligations as the infant grows
 - f. Sponsor
 - i. Presents Adult/child to be baptized. With parents if infant. (CCL 872)
 - ii. Helps person lead Christian life and fulfill obligations of it (CCL 872)
 - iii. One male sponsor, one female sponsor, or one of each (CCL 873)
 - iv. Requirements for a sponsor (CCL 874)
 - 1. Has to be designated
 - 2. At least sixteen
 - 3. A Catholic who is confirmed and has received Eucharist and practices the faith
 - 4. Has no canonical penalties imposed or declared on them
 - 5. Not the father or the mother
 - g. Minister – Who can baptize?
 - i. Ordinary is bishop, priest or deacon (CCL 861.1)
 - ii. Extra Ordinary is the person designated by bishop or in case of necessity a person with right intention(licitly) (CCL 861.2)
5. How
- a. Preparation
 - i. Child - Baptismal class for Parents
 - ii. Adult – RCIA
 - 1. Precatechumenate – inquiry and evangelization of person
 - 2. Catechumenate – catechesis
 - 3. Purification and Enlightenment - Conversion therapy, happens during Lent.
 - b. Rite (Rite of baptism for one child - Other Rites follow the general flow)
 - i. Reception of the child
 - 1. Asked what name [When choosing a name one is not to choose a name foreign to Christian sensibility (CCL 855)]
 - 2. Parents/godparents obligations of the faith
 - 3. Priest, parents and godparents make sign of cross on forehead (signifies the grace Christ won for us on the cross)
 - ii. Liturgy of the Word
 - 1. Reading
 - 2. Homily
 - 3. Intercessions
 - 4. Prayer of Exorcism
 - 5. Anointing before baptism – oil of catechumenate
 - iii. Celebration of the Sacrament
 - 1. Blessing and invocation of God over baptismal water.
 - 2. Renunciation of sin

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3. Profession of faith
4. Baptism
 - a. Parents asked if will to baptize child
 - b. Trinitarian formula
 - c. Immerses or pours water three times
- iv. Explanatory Rites
 1. Anointing after baptism (Chrism in order to remain priest, prophet, and king)
 2. Clothing with white garment (Sign of Christian dignity)
 3. Lighted candle (Child of the light, Christ)
 4. Ephphetha or prayer over ears and mouth
 - a. Ears to hear faith
 - b. Mouth to proclaim the faith
- v. Conclusion of the Rite
 1. Lord's prayer
 2. Blessing
- c. After baptism - Parents or adult to fulfill obligations
6. Where
 - a. Proper place is Church or oratory (CCL 857.1) but in case of emergency it can be done anywhere
 - b. Use baptismal font which every church is required to have (CCL 858.1)
7. When
 - a. It can be done after birth, the sooner the better, at the first opportunity. Within the first two weeks.(CCL 867)
 - b. Usually whatever the parish custom is and some community should be there since a new member is being welcomed into the Church.
 - c. If Adult and a child over the age of reason, go through RCIA and done at the Easter Vigil
 - d. It can be celebrated on any day but recommended days are Sunday or the Easter Vigil (CCL 856)
8. Conclusion
 - a. What
 - i. Baptism is a sacrament of new birth in water and the Holy Spirit.
 - ii. It was prefigured in the OT and then instituted by Christ at the Jordon River.
 - iii. It requires faith.
 - b. Why
 - i. **It is necessary for salvation.**
 - ii. It forgives sins, makes us a new creatures who are united with Christ and his Church (Christians).
 - iii. It marks an indelible character on our soul.
 - c. Who
 - i. Anyone who hasn't been baptized and has faith.
 - ii. Adults, persons over age of reason, go through RCIA whereas infants just are baptized soon after birth.
 - iii. The parents or sponsor represent the faith of the infant. **They should make sure that the obligations to the faith continue.**

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- iv. The bishop, priest, or deacon usual minister but in case of emergency anyone with right intention.
- d. How
 - i. There are certain rites to follow.
 - ii. Adults go through RCIA and parents/sponsor go through class so they understand the significance of baptism.
 - iii. Basic, in case of emergency, is to use water and say Trinitarian formula, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- e. Where – usual done in the church
- f. When – Adults at the Easter Vigil and infants soon after birth.
- g. Baptism is very important, it is necessary for salvation. Once given, there are obligations that one has to follow. For an infant, parents and sponsors are entrusted with these for the infant.