

Becoming a Christian

Based on Chapter 15, "Baptism: Becoming a Christian"
(United States Catholic Catechism for Adults, pages 181-199)



I. **Lesson of Faith** (pages 181-183)

The Prayer Leader reads or invites the participants to read silently, "A Baptismal Witness to Justice for Minorities" and then invites all to reflect silently on the following:

How does the story of John Boyle O'Reilly and his commitment to Christ in the oppressed personally inspire you?

II. **From the Catechism:** (taken from page 185)

The Prayer Leader concludes the period of reflection by reading the following statements:

Baptism is birth into the new life in Christ. In accordance with the Lord's will, it is necessary for salvation, as is the Church herself, which we enter by Baptism. -- CCC, no. 1277

The meaning and grace of the sacrament of Baptism are clearly seen in the rites of its celebration. -- CCC, no. 1234

Reborn... (the baptized)... must participate in the apostolic and missionary activity of the People of God. -- CCC, no. 1270

III. **Meditation** – Colossians 2:12

Reader:

You were buried with him (Christ) in baptism,
in which you were also raised with him through
Faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.

After a short period of silence, the Reader introduces the Response.

IV. **Response** (based on Doctrinal Statements on page 197)

The Risen Jesus commissioned the Apostles to baptize when he said, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" (Mt 28:19-20)

In confidence, let us offer our petitions.

The response is: Jesus, our New Life, hear our prayer.

For all who have been immersed in the waters of baptism, that we would strive to share more deeply in the mission of Christ as priest, prophet and king, let us pray: (response)

For parents, that they may bring their children to the waters of rebirth and raise them in the fullness of faith, let us pray: (response)

For those who do not know Christ or the Church, that they may seek the truth, let us pray: (response)

V. For Discussion (based on pages 184, 197)

The Prayer Leader introduces the discussion questions to groups of two or three. Groups discuss for three to five minutes.

“The origin and foundation of Christian Baptism is Jesus...” In the Baptism of Jesus, “the waters did not purify him; he cleansed the waters... Jesus’ immersion in the water is a sign for all human beings of the need to die to themselves to do God’s will... He established the means by which people would die to sin – Original and actual – and begin to live a new life with God.”

- * In baptism, we die and rise with Christ. Why is it important to remember the “dying” part?
- * What differences do you see between some “cradle Catholics” and those who have entered the Church through the RCIA?

VI. Ending Prayer -- Introduced by the Prayer Leader

God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has freed you from sin,
Given you a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit,
And welcomed you into his holy people.
He now anoints you with the chrism of salvation.
As Christ was anointed Priest, Prophet and King,
So may you live always as members of his body,
Sharing everlasting life. Amen.

-- Prayer for Anointing with Chrism,
Rite of Baptism

