

Baptism “does something” – Purifies, Justifies, Sanctifies

The Church, ..., teaches that our first parents, Adam and Eve, were created in an “**original state of holiness and justice.**” This grace of original holiness was “to share in... God’s divine life.” Due to man’s (our) failure, we lost this perfect communion with our Creator.

The first effect of Baptism is the **restoration to friendship with God** which was lost by original sin. The baptized person is made a **partaker of the divine nature** and, therefore, a sharer in divine life. This participation in the divine nature is what we call “**grace.**” This sharing of the divine nature makes us adopted sons and daughters of the eternal Father,a new creation in Christ.

At our Baptism we are infused (by God) with;

Faith

to believe in Him

Hope

to trust in Him

Charity

to love him

Gifts of the Holy Spirit, (received through Baptism):



Wisdom-To recognize/see God’s will in the circumstances of our life.

Understanding – To understand God works through all situations.

Counsel – Ability to share your knowledge of God.

Fortitude – Staying on track- seeing the goal of eternal life.

Knowledge – Gives us insight into His will for us.

Piety – To worship & pray with reverence to the presence of God.

Fear of the Lord – It is to stand in awe of God.



The Baptized are anointed with the chrism (oil) of salvation, so that united with his people, we are to remain forever a member of Christ who is Priest, Prophet, and King.

PRIEST – “As Christ was anointed Priest... so you may live always as a member of his body.” The Chrismation oil is the royal anointing, every baptized person is anointed, and that means a Priest, Prophet, king, every baptized person shares these three offices. What does it mean that every baptized person is a priest? A priest is someone who prays for others, who intercedes, who performs sacrifices.

PROPHET “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit Comes upon you; and you will be my witnesses...” A baptized person is a prophet. A prophet is someone who speaks for God. To be a priest, is to be a person of intercessory prayer, to be a prophet, to announce the faith, to teach the faith.

KING – “Take courage; I have conquered the world!” “As Christ was anointed... King, so may you live always as a member of his body.” Every baptized person is anointed as a king. A king in the biblical senses is someone who leads others to God, or someone who order things so people find their mission. Whenever you give someone good counsel in this spiritual life, whenever you direct them to the end to what God wants them to achieve, you are acting as a king.

Reflection for Parents and Godparents

As parents and godparents, you are participating in a life-changing event for your beloved child. The child's growth will involve both a unique, individual relationship with Christ and a communal relationship with his Church. As a parent and godparent, you are in a special position to nurture those relationships-now and in the years to come. You have already received the anointing of the same Spirit and been called into this same mission.

Your prayers and example will play an important part in your godchild's spiritual development. Consider the effects of your Baptism and your own life of faith, the faith you will profess at the child's Baptism. What is going well in your spiritual life? Where could you use some improvement to be the best possible model and guide for the child?

The following is a recent teaching from Pope Francis.

In his catechesis, Pope Francis spoke about several aspects of the Baptismal liturgy. The older form of Baptism anticipated catechumens making the first part of their profession of faith turned to the west. After rejecting Satan, they turned to the apse, toward the east, where the sun rises, and professed their faith in God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

In our times, the Pope said, we have lost our fascination with this rite; we have lost our "sensitivity to the language of the cosmos." But we have retained the significance of the rite: To be a Christian means "to look to the light, to continue to make the profession of faith in the light, even when the world is wrapped up in the night and in darkness": Christians, he said, are not exempt from darkness. "They do not live outside the world, but through the grace of Christ received in Baptism, they are men and women who are 'oriented': they do not believe in darkness, but in the brightness of the day; they do not succumb to the night, but hope in the dawn; they are not defeated by death, but are yearning to rise again; they are not bent down by evil, because they trust always in the infinite possibilities of goodness. And this is our Christian hope."

The Pope also looked at the symbolism of the gift of a candle during the Baptism ceremony. The candle is lit from the Paschal candle, and recalls the Easter vigil liturgy when the light goes out from the Paschal candle to all the individual candles, and the whole Church is illuminated. The life of the Church, the Pope said – using a strong expression – is a kind of "contamination" by the light of Christ, which is spread from one to another. "The more of the light of Jesus that we have as Christians, the more of the light of Jesus there is in the life of the Church, and the more the Church lives."

Finally Pope Francis gave the faithful a kind of "homework assignment." He asked those present to remember the day of their Baptism, "which is the date of your rebirth, it is the date of the light, it is the date in which...we were contaminated by the light of Christ."

"What a grace it is," the Holy Father said in conclusion, "when a Christian truly becomes a 'Christopher'," a "bearer of Christ" in the world. "If we would be faithful to our Baptism, we would spread the light of hope – Baptism is the beginning of hope, that hope of God – and we would pass on to future generations reasons for life."

Your home assignment is to visit the St Charles Borromeo Parish website (www.st-charles-borromeo.org) and see the available resources to help you in your faith. In particular, check out the menu tab, Formation>Adults and check out the "wild goose videos."

Please note: St. Charles Borromeo conducts a nine (9) week program for adults who have not participated in the Sacrament of Confirmation. If you know of an adult over 18 years of age who may be interested in making their Confirmation, have them contact the Church office at 662-5279, or watch for notice in bulleting soon after the first of the year.