



SOUTHWEST LITURGICAL CONFERENCE
51st Annual Study Week
January 16-19, 2013 · Albuquerque

Listen,
Escuchen,
I will tell you a mystery...
les voy a contar un misterio...

...and we shall be changed.
...y todos seremos transformados.

Baptized into the Faith of the Community



Rev. James Burkart
Ordained – May 22, 1993

Education

Bachelors of Arts in Drama – University of Houston – 1987

Master of Divinity – University of St. Thomas – 1993

Master of Arts – Theology (Systematics) – University of St. Thomas – 1995

Master of Arts – Liturgical Studies – University of Notre Dame – 2004

Pastor – Catholic Community of St. Luke the Evangelist, Houston, TX

Chair – Archdiocesan Liturgical Commission

Board Member – Southwest Liturgical Conference

Introduction

Through the sacraments of Christian Initiation men and women are freed from the power of darkness. With Christ they die, are buried and rise again. They receive the Spirit of adoption which makes them God's sons and daughters and, with the entire people of God, they celebrate the memorial of the Lord's death and resurrection. (General Introduction – Rite of Baptism for Children, #1)

Introduction

Through baptism men and women are incorporated into Christ. They are formed into God's sons and daughters and, with the entire people of God, they celebrate the memorial of the Lord's death and resurrection. (General Introduction, #2)

Introduction

... Therefore baptism is, above all, the sacrament of that faith by which men and women, enlightened by the Spirit's grace, respond to the gospel of Christ. That is why the Church believes it is her most basic and necessary duty to inspire all, catechumens, parents of children still to be baptized, and godparents, to that true and living faith by which they adhere to Christ and enter into or confirm their commitment to the new covenant. To accomplish this, the Church prescribes the pastoral instruction of catechumens, the preparation of the children's parents, the celebration of God's word, and the profession of baptismal faith. (General Introduction, #3)

Introduction

Christian instruction and the preparation for baptism are a vital concern of God's people, the Church, which hands on and nourishes the faith it has received from the Apostles. Through the ministry of the Church, adults are called by the Holy Spirit to the gospel, and infants are baptized and brought up in this faith.

(General Introduction, #7)

Introduction

... After the baptism it is the responsibility of the parents, in their gratitude to God and in fidelity to the duty they have undertaken, to enable the child to know God, whose adopted child it has become, to receive confirmation, and to participate in the holy eucharist. In this duty they are again to be helped by the parish priest by suitable means. (Baptism of Children, Introduction, #5.5)

The Question

Rite of Baptism for One Child

What name do you give your child? (or: have you given)?

N.

What do you ask of God's Church for **N.?**

Baptism

The Question

You have asked to have your child baptized. In doing so you are accepting the responsibility of training him (her) in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring him (her) up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbor. Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?

We do.

The Question

Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?

Mystagogical Issue

What happens to the children/parents/family after baptism but before they begin either religious education classes or Catholic school?

Mystagogical Issue

Although sometimes difficult, a method of “follow-up” is vitally necessary after the liturgy. This might be a visit from one of the persons involved in the preparation (priest, religious, or lay person). If this is deemed impossible, at least a letter of congratulations and encouragement, accompanied by the Baptism record, should be sent by the pastor. Some parishes have also found a visit prior to the ceremony and a letter of congratulations on the first anniversary to be a very effective pastoral tool. (Pastoral Manual, Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, June 1, 2005. Pg. F-40)

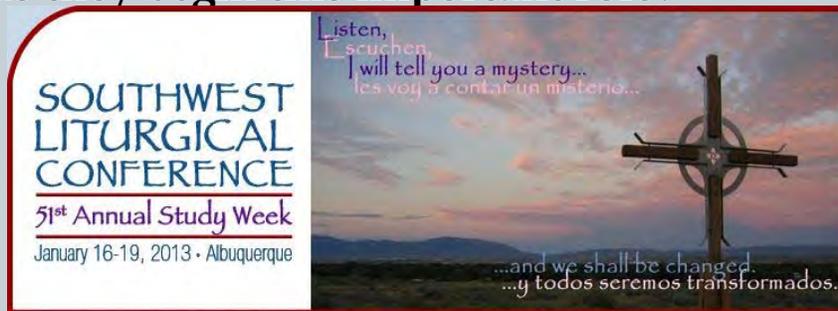
Mystagogical Issue

What sort of follow-up is the Church (are we) doing post baptism?

We emphasize the importance of Baptism, but how are we supporting families once the child(ren) is/are baptized?

Mystagogical Issue

For baptisms of children/infants – the question is really about and for the parents. How is the Church supporting the parents as they begin this important role?



Mystagogical Issue

Mystagogy is the interpretation of mystery.

But how do we interpret mystery if we do not listen?

Are we asking the parents what they need, while we are instructing them of what the Church's teaching is?

Mystagogical Issue

What's more – how is the Catholic Church relevant to those who are preparing to baptize their children?

If not, why not? We must listen to their needs and then begin to form a response.

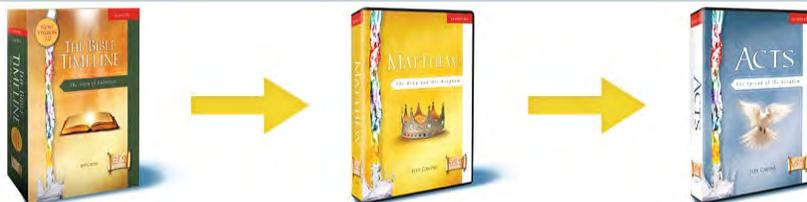
Mystagogical Issue

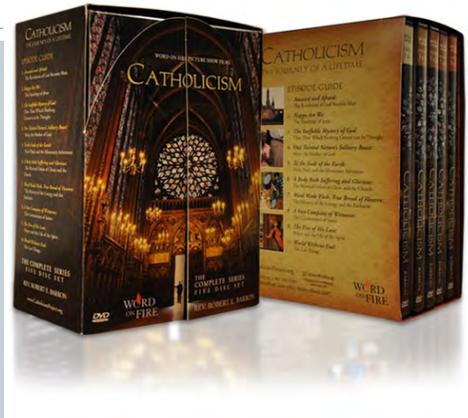
Follow – up with parents?

- Follow- up letter from the pastor
- One year anniversary remembrance card, prayer book, house blessings
- small faith groups for parents with small children
 - help them with community and their faith
- particular adult formation classes with baby sitting offered



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Rediscover Catholicism: A Spiritual Guide to Living with Passion & Purpose. Matthew Kelly. Beacon Publishing. 2010

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Rediscover Catholicism

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Mystagogical Issue

**Assisting the parents to associate with
their own age-group and other young
families in the community?**

- Young adult groups/ministries

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Works Cited

- Pastoral Manual, Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston.
- Rite of Baptism for Children. Bishop's Conference on the Liturgy, National Conference of Catholic Bishops. Catholic Book Publishing Co. New York. 1970-1977.