

DIOCESE OF BILOXI

WWW.PAULTURNER.ORG/WORKSHOPS/

THE RITE OF BAPTISM

FOR CHILDREN

BAPTISM PREPARATION

- Pastors prepare the faithful for sacraments “by the necessary evangelization and catechetical formation” CCL 843/2
- First conversations
- Number of sessions



BAPTISM PREPARATION

FORMAT AND CONTENT

- Formation
 - Location - church or home
 - Discussion & presentation
 - Size of groups
- Content
 - Sacramental catechesis
 - Practical Q & A
 - Invite parents to parish life



THE AGE OF THE CHILD

- Catechetical age:
 - Full preparation and celebration similar to adults
- Time between birth and baptism
 - “within the first few weeks after birth” (CCL 867/1)
 - considerations in danger of death



BAPTISM IN SCRIPTURE

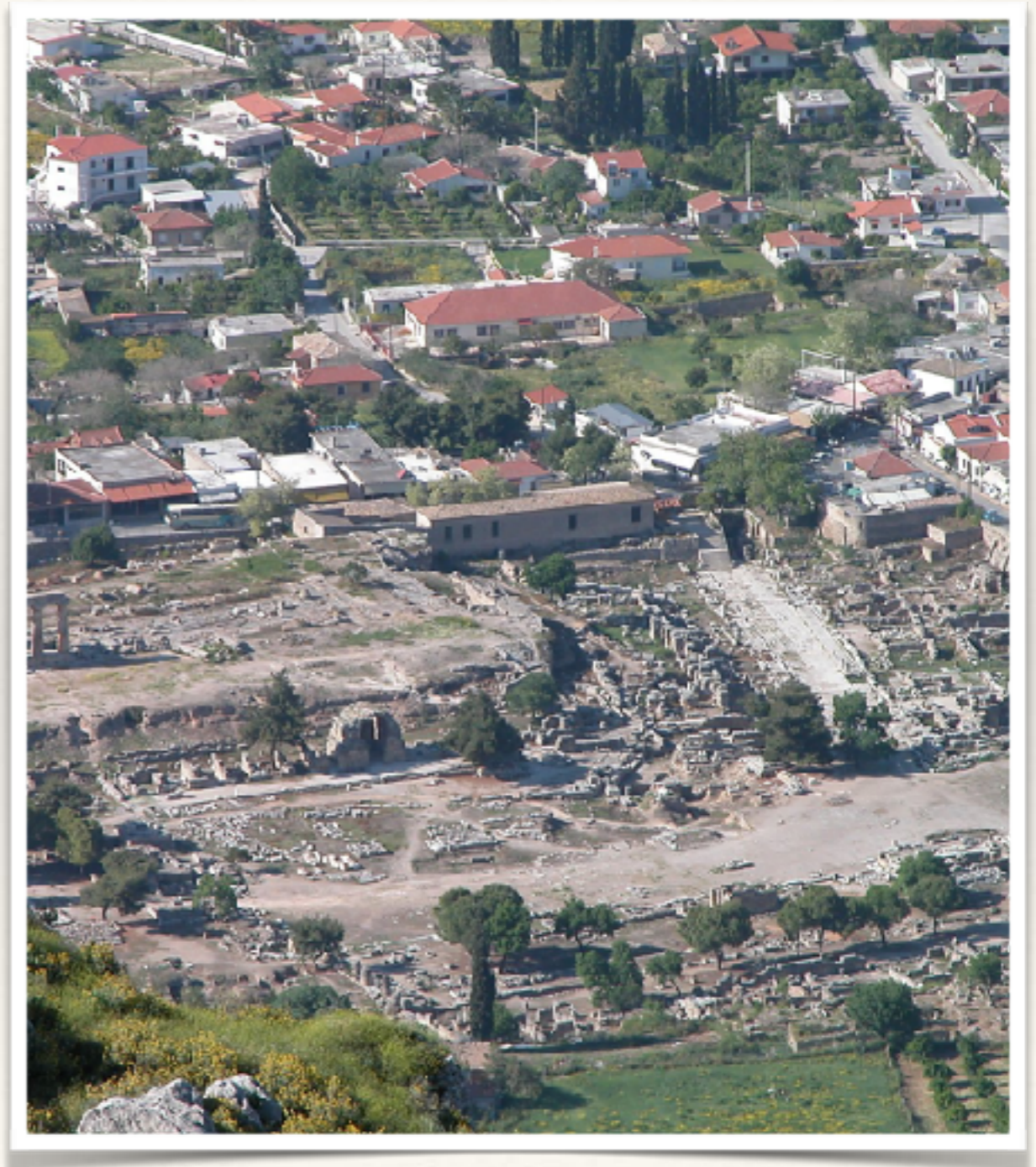
NEW TESTAMENT

- Colossians 2:11-13 Baptism and circumcision
- Jesus: "Let the little children come to me"
 - Mark 10:14-15, Matt 19:14-15 and Luke 18:16-17
- Jesus: welcome a child and be childlike
 - Luke 9:48 and Matt 18:3-5



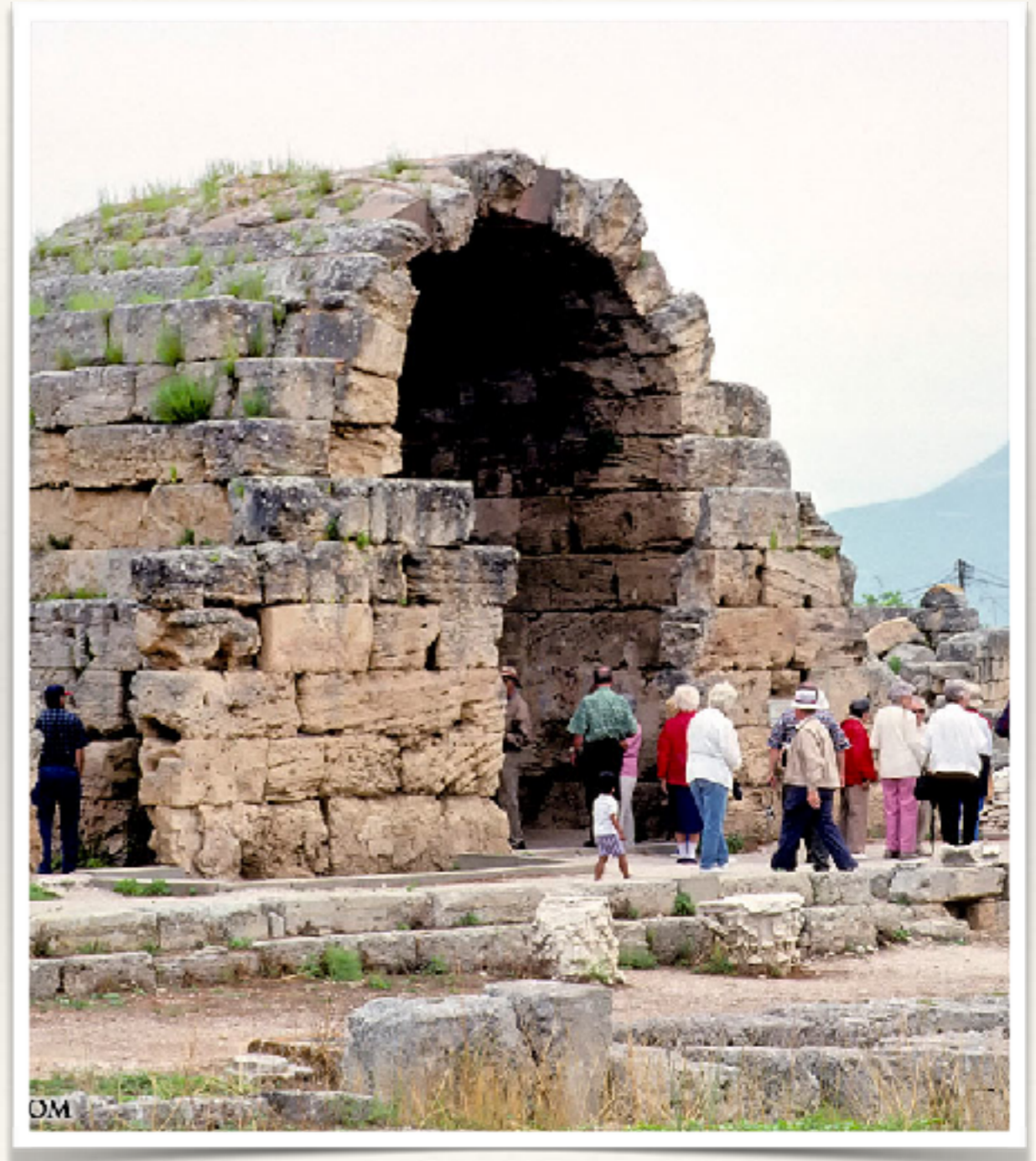
Households of Believers

- ❖ “I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.”
- ❖ 1 Corinthians 1:16



Households of Believers

- ❖ “Crispus, the official of the synagogue, became a believer in the Lord, together with all his household; and many of the Corinthians who heard Paul became believers and were baptized.”
- ❖ Acts of the Apostles 18:8



Households of Believers

- ❖ “A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, ‘If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.’ And she prevailed upon us.”
- ❖ Acts of the Apostles 16:11-15



Households of Believers

- ❖ “Now there was a royal official whose son lay ill in Capernaum. . . . He himself believed, along with his whole household.”
- ❖ John 4:46b, 53b



Households of Believers

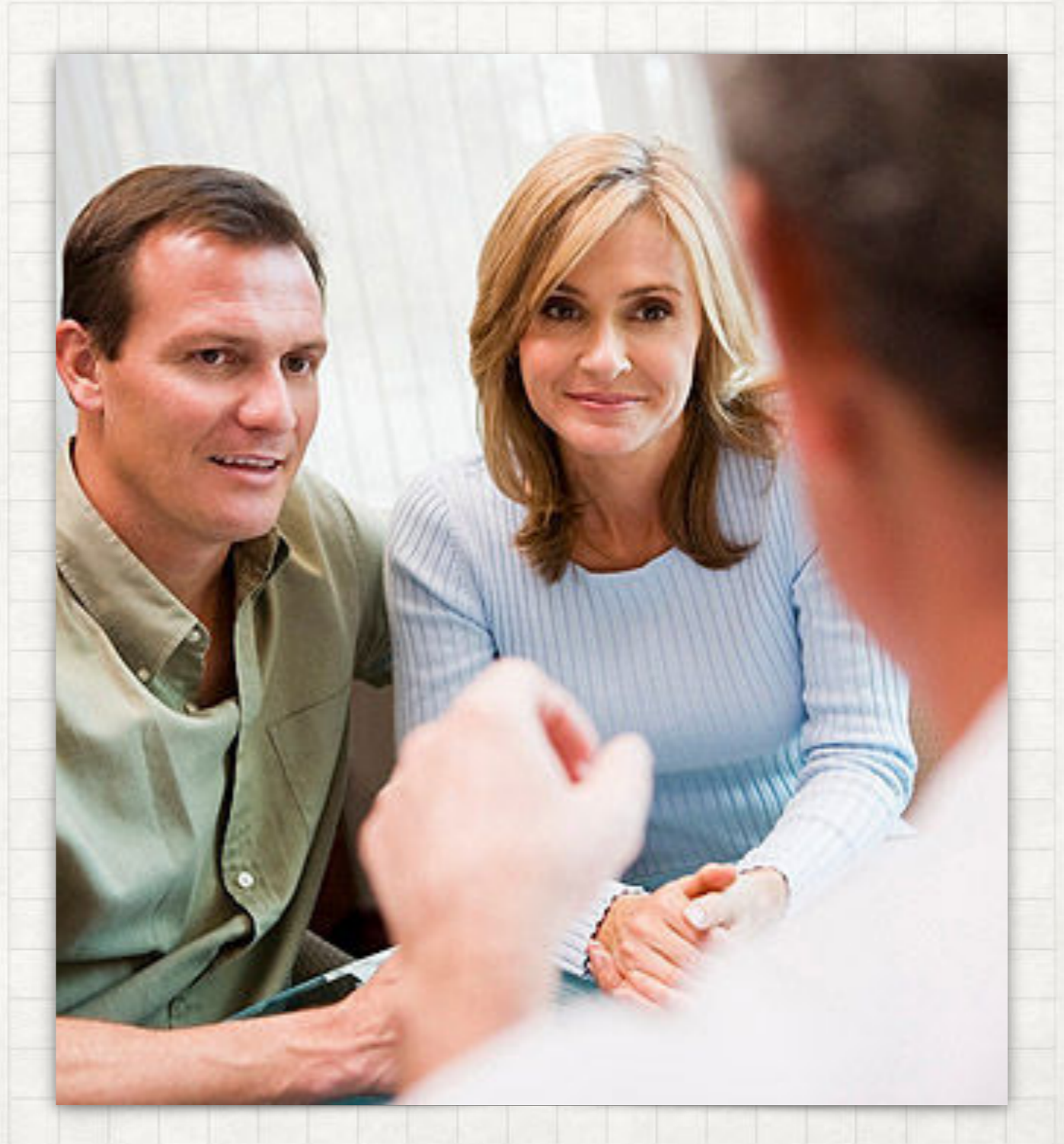
“[After the earthquake unfastened the prisoners’ chains,] the jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, ‘Sirs, what must I do to be saved?’ They answered, ‘Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.’ They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay.” - Acts of the Apostles 16:29-33



DEFERRING BAPTISM

PASTORS

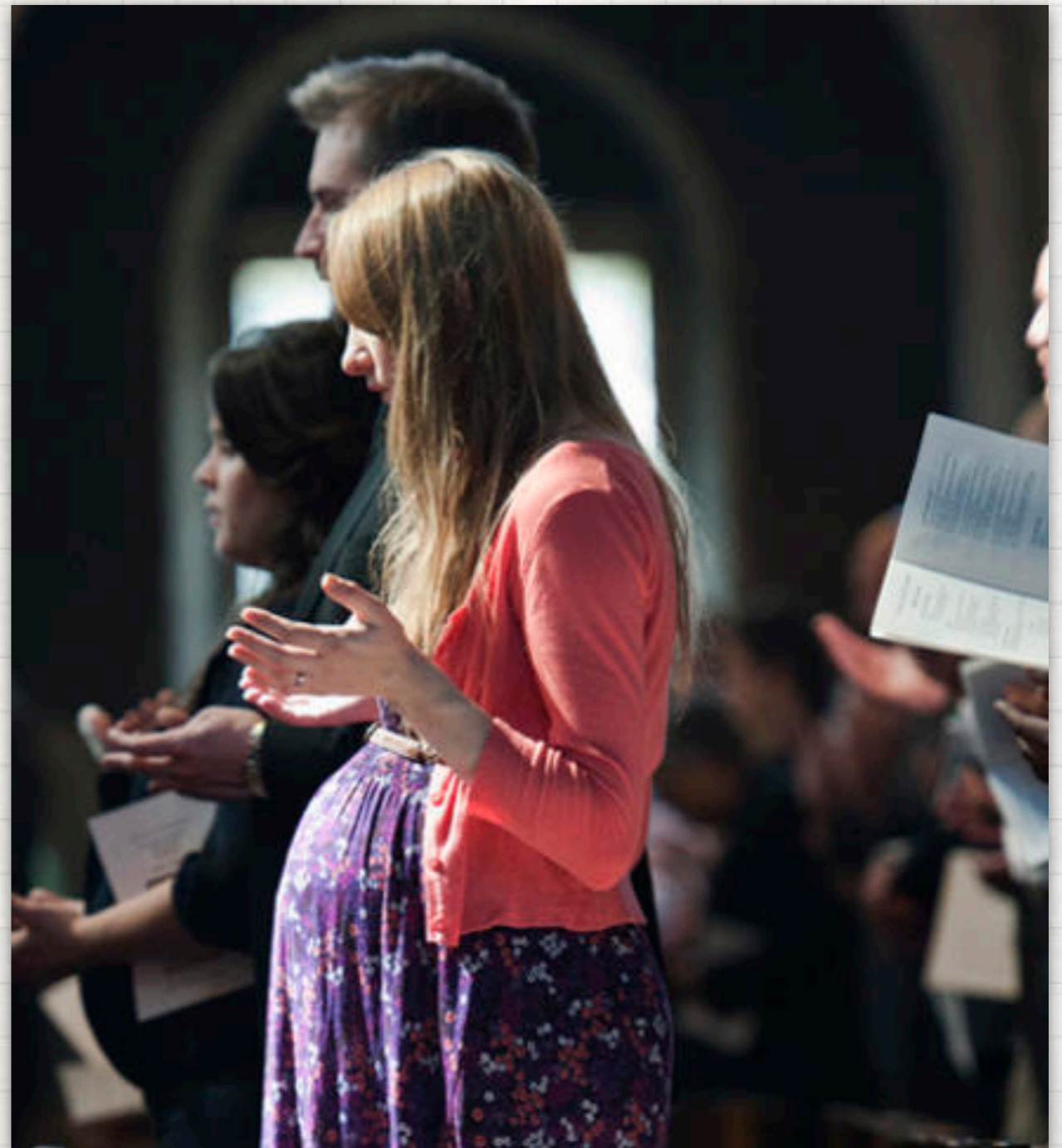
- Ministers cannot refuse sacraments “to those who ask for them at appropriate times, are properly disposed and are not prohibited by law from receiving them” CCL 843/1
- If there is no founded hope that the infant will be brought up in the Catholic religion, “the baptism is to be put off” CCL 868/2



MINISTER'S DUTIES

RBC 7

- Prepare families for baptism, help with formation of children
- Arrange the baptism with proper dignity and "as far as possible, adapted to the circumstances and wishes of the families"
- Perform the baptism "with exactness and reverence; ... try to be understanding and friendly to all"



SINGLE PARENTS

PASTORAL QUESTIONS

- Are both parents still involved in the child's development?
- What legal rights pertain?
- What role will the Church play?
- Catechesis on the relationship of sex and marriage
- Birth out of wedlock alone is not reason to withhold baptism



A NON-BELIEVING PARENT

- Such a parent “may keep silent.” Is only asked “to make arrangements or at least to give permission for the child’s instruction in the faith of its baptism.” RBC 5/4



ADOPTION ISSUES

- Baptism more prudent after adoption is official
- The baptismal record need not mention adoption



MARRIAGE OUTSIDE THE CHURCH

- Opportunity to discuss reasons with parents, offer assistance
- Baptism need not wait



DEATH BEFORE BAPTISM

- Offering consolation
- The limbo question
- Funeral rites



GODPARENTS

- Morbid cultural expectations
- Family members
- Parishioners
- Padrinos
- Proxies
- Discuss expectations
- One or two godparents, if two, male and female; if one, either sex



THE CHRISTIAN WITNESS

- Only Catholics are “godparents” for Catholic baptisms
- With one godparent, there may be a Christian witness
May be male or female
- Entering the baptismal register



EXPECTATIONS

- "Are you ready to help these parents in their duty as Christian mothers and fathers?"
- Renew baptismal vows
- Assist in lighting the child's candle
- Serve again as confirmation sponsor



BAPTISMS AT MASS

- Value of community participation, baptism into the body of Christ; music and ministries
- Some view baptism as private affair
- Embarrassing circumstances
- Beware unduly prolonging the liturgy
- Texts from Mass for baptism



RBC 29

- Receiving children at beginning; omit greeting and penitential rite
- Readings, homily; omit Creed
- Blend general intercessions with baptismal petitions and litany of saints
- After baptism, mass continues
- Blessing from formularies for baptism



OCCASION

- Easter Vigil with preparation rites of Saturday morning
- Sundays
- Other days
- Minister
- Location



EMERGENCY BAPTISMS

- Know the formula
- Emergency confirmation
- Supplying the other rites
- The well-meaning grandparent
- Registering the baptism



CEREMONIES

- At the door
- Naming the child
- “What do you ask of God’s church?”
- Accepting responsibility
- Sign of the Cross
- Procession: order and music



- Scripture
 - Lectors, Responsorial psalm music, "one or two gospels" RBC 44
- Intercessions, litany of the saints
- Exorcism & oil of catechumens
- Ambry



- Procession to font, music
- Font
- Location
 - Shapes
 - Size
 - Visibility, audibility
 - Space



- Blessing the water
- Baptismal vows
- Holding the baby
- Immersion or pouring
- Acclamation after baptism



- Chrism
- White garment
- Candle
- Ephphetha
- [Procession to altar and]
Lord's Prayer
- Blessing



OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Music
- Photography
- Baptismal certificate
- Gift for the church or minister



AFTER BAPTISM

- Reflection
- Annual prayers and blessings
- Discipleship for parents and children
- Prayer
- Community
- Catechesis
- Service

