

Sacraments of Initiation

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

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Why baptize children

- ◆ 2. Since the Lord said, “No one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit,” the Church has always understood that children are not to be deprived of Baptism, inasmuch as they are baptized in the faith of the Church herself, which is proclaimed by the parents and godparents and the others present. For they represent both the local Church and the whole company of saints and faithful: Mother Church who brings each and all to birth.

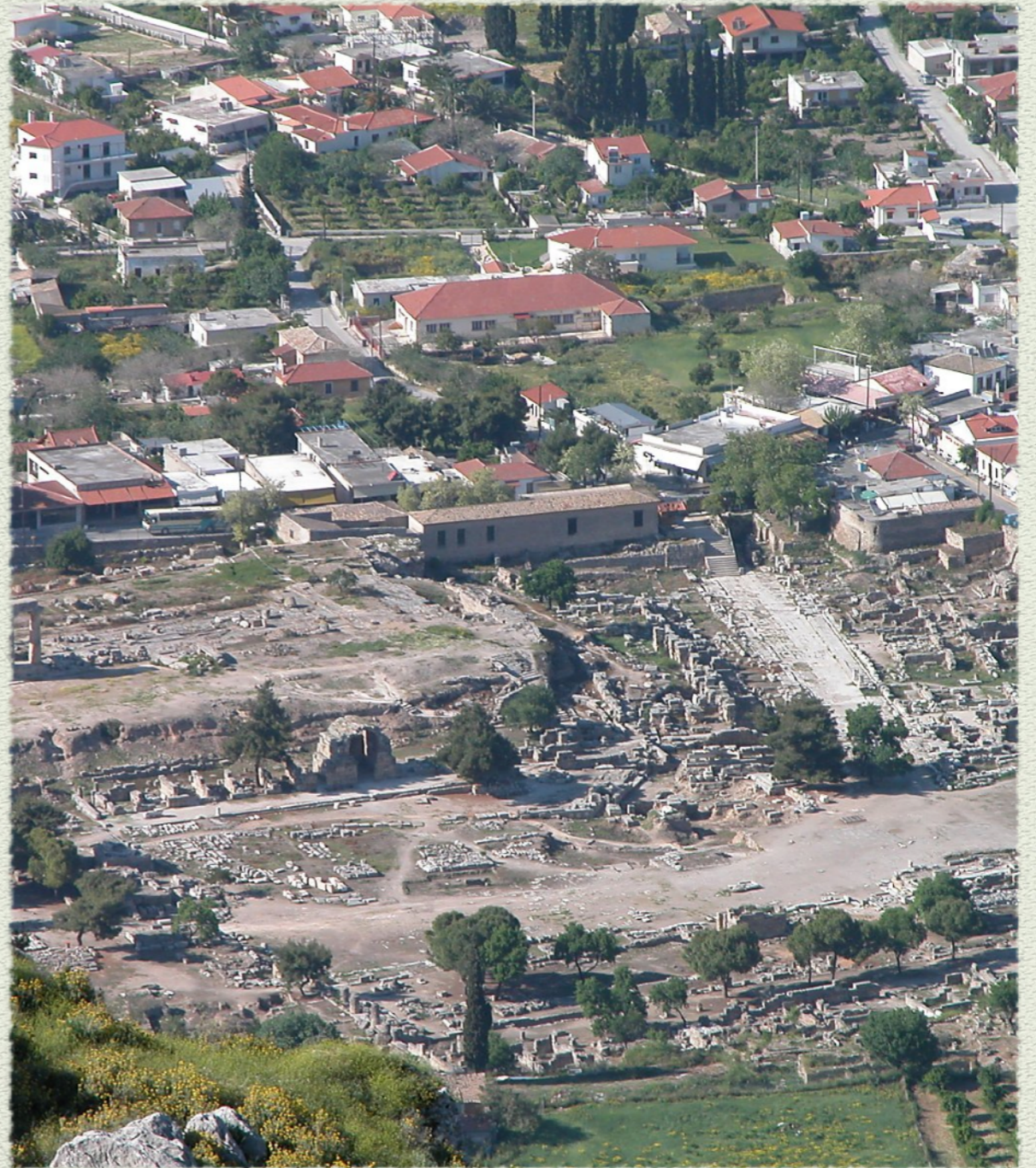
Infants in the New Testament

- ◆ 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

- ◆ “[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

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



Pentecost baptisms

- ◆ Those who accepted [Peter's] message were baptized, and about three thousand persons were added that day. (Acts 2:41)
- ◆ But many of those who heard the word came to believe and (the) number of men grew to [about] five thousand. (Acts 4:4)



The age of the child

- ◆ Catechetical age
 - ◆ Full preparation and celebration as adults
- ◆ Time from birth to baptism
 - ◆ “within the first few weeks after birth” (CCL 867 §1)



USCCB Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities

- ◆ 11. Disability, of itself, is never a reason for deferring Baptism. Persons who lack the use of reason are to be baptized provided at least one parent or guardian consents to it.

Introduction (36)

Dear parents and godparents: Your families have experienced great joy at the birth of your children, and the Church shares your happiness. Today this joy has brought you to the Church to give thanks to God for the gift of your children and to celebrate a new birth in the waters of Baptism. This community rejoices with you, for today the number of those baptized in Christ will be increased, and we offer you our support in raising your children in the practice of the faith. Therefore, brothers and sisters, let us now prepare ourselves to participate in this celebration, listening to God's word, praying for these children and their families, and renewing our commitment to the Lord and to his people.

- ◆ **N.** and **N. (or: Dear children)**, the Church of God receives you with great joy. In her name I sign you with the Sign of the Cross of Christ our Savior; then, after me, your parents **(and godparents)** will do the same.

- ◆ Almighty ever-living God, who sent your Son into the world to drive out from us the power of Satan, the spirit of evil, and bring the human race, rescued from darkness, into the marvelous kingdom of your light: we humbly beseech you, to free these children from Original Sin, to make them the temple of your glory, and to grant that your Holy Spirit may dwell in them. Through Christ our Lord.

N., I BAPTIZE YOU IN THE
NAME OF THE FATHER,
AND OF THE SON,
AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

- ◆ Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, has freed you from sin, given you new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and joined you to his people. He now anoints you with the Chrism of salvation, so that you may remain members of Christ, Priest, Prophet and King, unto eternal life.

250-331 Baptism of Children within Mass

- ◆ 250 “so that the whole community may be able to take part in the rite and so that the connection between Baptism and the Most Holy Eucharist may stand out more clearly. Nonetheless this should not happen too often.”

Christian Witness, Canon 874 §2

- ◆ A baptized person who belongs to a non-Catholic ecclesial community is not to participate except together with a Catholic sponsor and then only as a witness of the baptism



- ◆ To be permitted to take on the function of sponsor a person must:
- ◆ 1/ be designated by the one to be baptized, by the parents or the person who takes their place, or in their absence by the pastor or minister and have the aptitude and intention of fulfilling this function;
- ◆ 2/ have completed the sixteenth year of age, unless the diocesan bishop has established another age, or the pastor or minister has granted an exception for a just cause;
- ◆ 3/ be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the most holy sacrament of the Eucharist and who leads a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on;
- ◆ 4/ not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared;
- ◆ 5/ not be the father or mother of the one to be baptized. **Canon 874 §1**

Confirmation

The Baby in Solomon's Court

Revised and Updated

Paul
Turner



CONFIRMATION: PRELIMINARIES

- There is no consensus on the best age of confirmation for those baptized as infants.
 - There is no consensus on the meaning of confirmation.
 - There is no clear indication from the Vatican what to expect.
 - Opinions are varied and passionate.
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Initiation, Maturity, Transfer

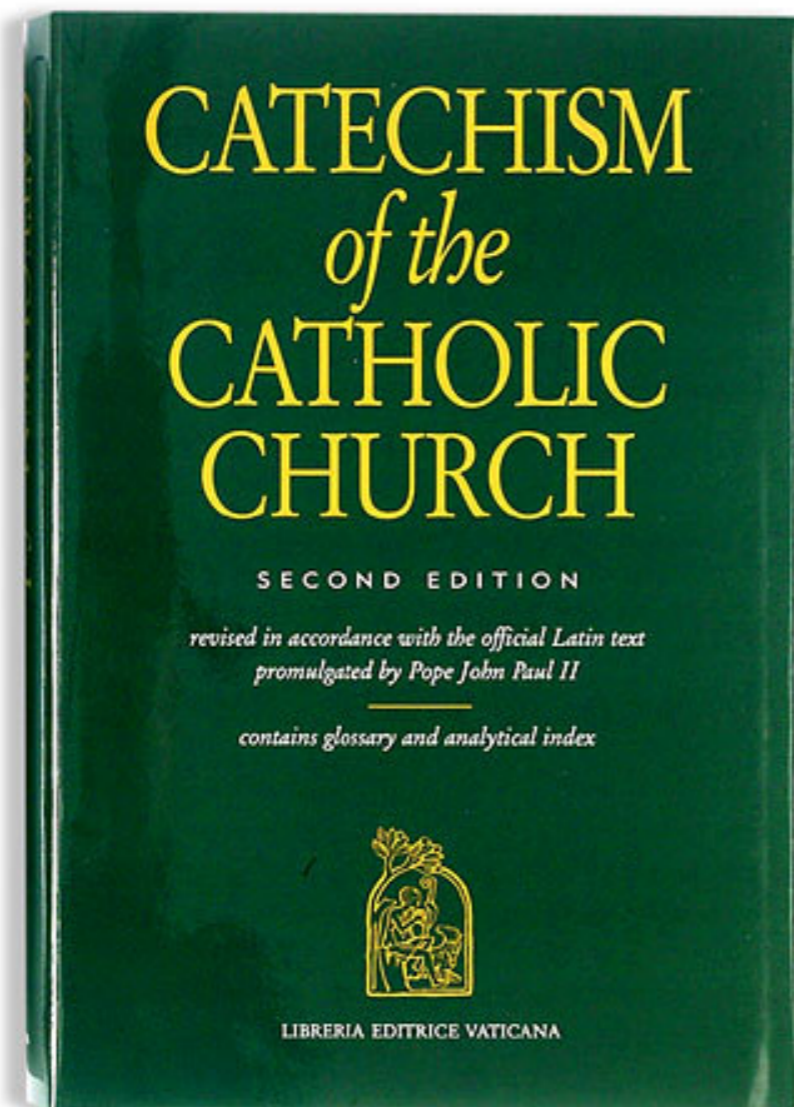


CONSTANT MEANINGS



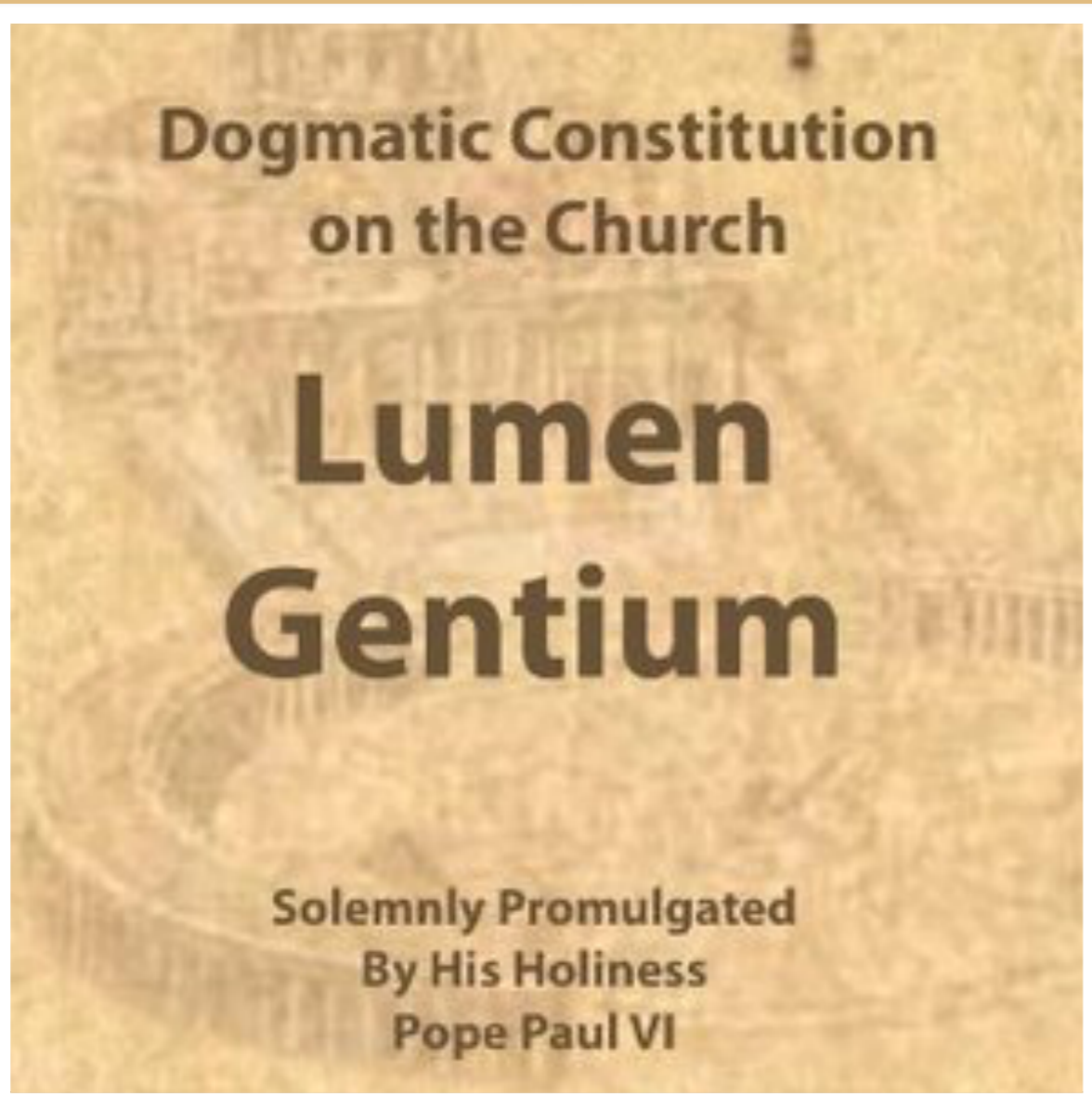
- The Gift of the Holy Spirit
 - For the purpose of bearing witness
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DEFERRED INITIATION: CATECHISM 1285



- Baptism, the Eucharist, and the sacrament of Confirmation together constitute the “sacraments of Christian initiation,” whose unity must be safeguarded. It must be explained to the faithful that the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace.

CATECHISM 1285 (CONT.)



- For “by the sacrament of Confirmation, [the baptized] are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed” [LG 11].

CATECHISM 1308



- Although Confirmation is sometimes called the “sacrament of Christian maturity,” we must not confuse adult faith with the adult age of natural growth, nor forget that the baptismal grace is a grace of free, unmerited election and does not need “ratification” to become effective.
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CODE OF CANON LAW 879: THE MEANING OF CONFIRMATION

- The sacrament of confirmation strengthens the baptized and obliges them more firmly to be witnesses of Christ by word and deed and to spread and defend the faith. It imprints a character, enriches by the gift of the Holy Spirit the baptized continuing on the path of Christian initiation, and binds them more perfectly to the Church.
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CODE OF CANON LAW 889: REQUIREMENTS



- Every baptized person not yet confirmed and only such a person is capable of receiving confirmation.

CODE OF CANON LAW 889: REQUIREMENTS (CONT.)



- To receive confirmation licitly outside the danger of death requires that a person who has the use of reason be suitably instructed, properly disposed, and able to renew the baptismal promises.

CODE OF CANON LAW 890: OBLIGATION TO RECEIVE



- The faithful are obliged to receive this sacrament at the proper time. Parents and pastors of souls, especially pastors of parishes, are to take care that the faithful are properly instructed to receive the sacrament and come to it at the appropriate time.

CANON 891: AGE OF CONFIRMATION



- The sacrament of confirmation is to be conferred on the faithful at about the age of discretion unless the conference of bishops has determined another age, or there is danger of death, or in the judgment of the minister a grave cause suggests otherwise.

USCCB COMPLEMENTARY NORM

- The National Conference of Catholic Bishops, in accord with the prescriptions of canon 891, hereby decrees that the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Latin Rite shall be conferred between the age of discretion and about sixteen years of age, within the limits determined by the diocesan bishop and with regard for the legitimate exceptions given in canon 891.
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USCCB GUIDELINES FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS WITH PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (REVISED, 2017)

- 18. All baptized Catholics who possess the use of reason may receive the Sacrament of Confirmation if they are “suitably instructed, properly disposed and able to renew the baptismal promises.” Persons who because of intellectual or developmental disabilities may never attain the use of reason can receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and should be encouraged either directly or, if necessary, through their parents, to receive it.... To the degree possible, those with disabilities should be included along with others during the preparation and celebration of the sacrament....
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ADULT INITIATION: RCIA 215

- In accord with the ancient practice followed in the Roman liturgy, adults are not to be baptized without receiving confirmation immediately afterward, unless some serious reason stands in the way. The conjunction of the two celebrations signifies the unity of the paschal mystery, the close link between the mission of the Son and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and the connection between the two sacraments through which the Son and the Holy Spirit come with the Father to those who are baptized.
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THE CONFIRMATION OF “ADULTS” (CANON 883)

The following possess the faculty of administering confirmation by the law itself:

...§2 as regards the person in question, the presbyter who by virtue of office or mandate of the diocesan bishop baptizes one who is no longer an infant or one already baptized whom he admits into the full communion of the Catholic Church.

§3 as regards those who are in danger of death, the pastor or indeed any presbyter.

885 §2 A presbyter who has this faculty must use it for those in whose favor the faculty was granted.



- ◆ Canon 912 Any baptized person not prohibited by law can and must be admitted to holy communion.
- ◆ Canon 913 §1. The administration of the Most Holy Eucharist to children requires that they have sufficient knowledge and careful preparation so that they understand the mystery of Christ according to their capacity and are able to receive the body of Christ with faith and devotion.

- ◆ USCCB: It is important to note, however, that the criterion for reception of Holy Communion is the same for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities as for all persons, namely, that the person be able to “distinguish the body of Christ from ordinary food,” even if this recognition is evidenced through manner, gesture, or reverential silence rather than verbally.... Cases of doubt should be resolved in favor of the right of the Catholic to receive the sacrament.

- ◆ Based on St. Augustine: “My brothers and sisters who are newly baptized, we now come to the moment you have been waiting for. We too have hungered to have you share with us at this table. What we share here is the body and blood of Christ. It guides us and centers us. It is the reason we live. ‘Be what you see, and receive what you are.’ Behold, the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. . . .”

◆ Pope Benedict XVI: “Dearest sons and daughters, I turn to you who in this glorious night, reborn by water and the Holy Spirit, receive for the first time the bread of life and the cup of salvation. / May the Body and Blood of Christ the Lord always make you grow in his friendship and in communion with the whole Church, may it be the constant food for the journey of your life, and a pledge of the eternal banquet of heaven.”