

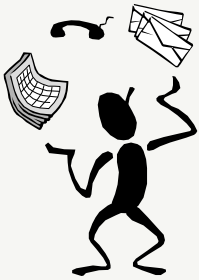


- A RESOURCE FOR ONGOING FORMATION -

Part 2: A Life of Penance and Daily Conversion

Chapter 4. Baptism

They have been made living members of the Church by being buried and raised with Christ in Baptism; they have been united more intimately with the Church by Profession. Therefore, they should go forth as witnesses and instruments of her mission among all people, proclaiming Christ by their life and words. Rule 6



What is Baptism?

Baptism is the first sacrament of initiation into the Church. We are immersed so washed in water while the following words are spoken: 'I baptise you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.'

What mystery of the Church is signified and brought about in Baptism?

The mystery of the Church signified and brought about in Baptism is our sacramental sharing in the priesthood of Christ by a permanent consecration to the Christian worship of God; this is called our baptismal *character*.

Should Baptism never be repeated?

Baptism should never be repeated because our baptismal consecration is permanent.

Herbert McCabe *The Teaching of the Catholic Church* 86, 87, 89 (p 18)

See Israel's gentle Shepherd stand
With all-engaging charms;
Hark how he calls the tender lambs,
And folds them in his arms!

Permit them to approach, he cries,
Nor scorn their humble name;
For 'twas to bless such souls as these
The Lord of Angels came.

We bring them, Lord, in thankful
hands,
And yield them up to thee;
Joyful that we ourselves are thine,
Thine let our children be.

Philip Doddridge, 1702-51

...proclaim the word of God...so that they believe in the all-powerful God—Father, and Son, and Holy Spirit—the Creator of all, in the Son who is Redeemer and Saviour, and that they be baptised and become Christians; because whoever has not been born again of the Holy Spirit cannot enter the kingdom of God.

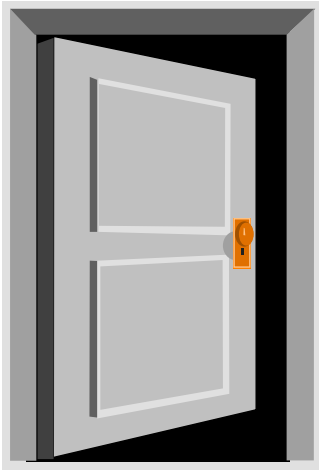
Francis and Clare: the complete works (p 121-122)

John 3.5

For licit baptism of an infant it is necessary that:

- There be a founded hope that the infant will be brought up in the Catholic religion...
CIC, Canon 868.2

MEANING?



Scripture—

Rom 6. 3-4

We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet as well known; as dying, and behold we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Gal 3. 26-28

For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you were baptised into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are one in Christ Jesus.