

and ever." "Amen."

In conclusion the priest says to the new Christian: "N, go in peace, and the Lord be with you." The candidate answers: "Amen."

The Minister of Baptism

The ordinary minister of infant baptism is the pastor of the child and his or her parents. The pastor may delegate another priest or deacon to administer baptism in his place. The baptism should take place in the baptistry of the parish church and within a week to ten days of the child's birth.

Of course, in case of danger of death, anyone may and should baptize the child, who is later brought, if they survive, to the church where these ceremonies with the exception of the baptism itself are performed by the pastor or his delegate. Doctors, nurses and mid-wives are trained in the Rite of Baptism in case of such necessities, and every Christian should learn how to baptize, if necessity should arise.

In a case of danger of death, a priest should baptize, if he is present. If so, he can baptize, and perform the closing ceremonies. A priest is preferred to a deacon; a deacon to a subdeacon, etc. A cleric to a lay person and a man to a woman. The exception is in cases where propriety requires a woman to be present and a man not to be present, such as in case of a baptism performed immediately after birth.

The ordinary minister of Baptism of an adult is the Bishop of the diocese, who may delegate another priest. In places where conversions are common, pastors are usually delegated by their Bishop to baptize adults.

The Baptism of Adults

There is a more solemn form of baptism that is used in some adult baptisms. The Ritual provides: "An adult shall not be baptized except with his own knowledge and consent, and only after being duly instructed. Moreover, he must be disposed to true compunction for his sins." The Fathers of the Church tell us that a candidate for baptism should have given up their habits of mortal sin. In fact, in the early centuries of the Church, baptism was administered on Holy Saturday after the baptismal water was blessed. In some cases, the Bishop would postpone baptism until the Vigil of Pentecost, when baptismal water was again blessed, because these people were not properly prepared.

The Ritual also tell us that the priest, and the candidate, if he is an adult, should be fasting prior to baptism. And so, baptism ought normally to be administered in the morning at a convenient time. Although fasting from midnight is desirable, the current three hour Eucharistic fast would be sufficient. The Ritual also provides: "Unless prevented by grave and urgent causes, immediately after his baptism an adult should assist at Mass and receive Holy Communion."



Ceremonies of Solemn Baptism

Solemn Baptism is divided into two parts. One part is performed at the door of the Church and the second part is performed in the baptistry.

The priest with an assistant comes to the door of the church to meet the candidate and his or her sponsor(s). The priest wears a surplice and violet stole.

At the door of the Church, the candidate is called by their Baptismal name and asked: "N, what do you ask of the Church of God?" The candidate (or sponsor in the case of infant



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Baptism) answers: "Faith." "What does faith bestow on you?" The candidate answers "Life everlasting."

The priest then says: "If then you will enter into life, keep the commandments; thou shalt love the Lord thy God with thy whole heart, and with thy whole sou, and with thy whole mind, and thy neighbor as thyself."

The priest then breathes on the candidate three times and says: "Go out from him (her), you unclean spirit, and make way for the Holy Ghost, the Consoler."

Then follows two prayers. During the second prayer, the priest lays his hand on the candidate.

The priest then blesses the salt, if it has not already been blessed. He puts a little salt into the candidates mouth, saying: "N, receive the salt of wisdom; may it be to you a sign of reconciliation unto life everlasting." The candidate responds: "Amen."

"Peace be with you" "And with thy spirit."

Then follow two more prayers.

The priest then traces the sign of the cross on the forehead of the candidate with his thumb, saying: "And this sign of the holy Cross which we trace on his (her) brow, do you accursed demon, never dare to violate. Through the same Christ our Lord." The response is "Amen."

The priest places his hand on the head of the candidate and says a prayer.

Then the priest places the left side of his stole onto the candidate and leads him or her into the baptistry, saying: "N enter into the temple of God, that you may have part with Christ until life everlasting." The candidate responds: "Amen."

They proceed to the font and say the Apostle's Creed and the Our Father together.

The priest then recites an exorcism to expel

the demons from the candidate.

The priest then touches his mouth and gets a little spittle, then touches the ears of the candidate, saying: "Ephpheta, which means: be you opened." (Mark 7:34) This is done in memory of what Jesus did to heal a man. Then the priest touches the nostrils, saying: "Unto the odor of sweetness. Bot you, evil spirit, begone, for the judgment of God draws near."

Then the priest asks several questions:

"N, do you renounce Satan?" The answer is: "I do renounce him."

"And all of his works?" "I do renounce them."

"And all of his allurements?" "I do renounce them."

The priest then anoints the candidate on the breast and between the shoulders with the sign of the cross saying: "I anoint you with the oil of salvation in Christ Jesus, our Lord, that you may have life everlasting." "Amen."

The priest puts on the white stole and proceeds to the baptismal font to ask some questions.

"N to you believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?" "I do believe."

"Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His Only-Begotten Son, our Lord, Who was born unto us and Who suffered for us?" "I do believe."

"Do you believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy Catholic Church, the Communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting?" "I do believe."

"N, will you be baptized?" The candidate answers: "I will."

The priest takes up the baptismal water. If the candidate is a baby, the God-mother holds the baby and the God-father places his hand on the baby. If the candidate is older or an adult, then one or both place their hand on the

candidate's shoulder. The priest then pours water three times on the head of the candidate, saying: "I baptize you in the Name of the Father (pour), and of the Son (pour), and of the Holy Ghost. (pour)"

(Baptism is valid if water is only poured once, while reciting the formula above. Also in case of necessity, anyone can baptize, by pouring water while saying these words, as we learn in the catechism.)

Then the priest anoints the candidate on the forehead with chrism, saying: "May God almighty, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who has caused you to be born anew by water and the Holy Ghost, and granted you the remission of all sins, (here the priest traces the sign of the Cross), may He anoint you with the Chrism of salvation in the self-same Jesus Christ, our Lord, unto life everlasting." "Amen."

This anointing is in memory of the fact that many candidates were adults and baptized by the Bishop of their diocese, who immediately Confirmed them. In the East, priests may Confirm infants immediately after Baptism.

Then a white garment is placed on the candidate, to symbolize the purity of a newly baptized person's soul. In the early ages of the Church Baptism was administered to adults on Holy Saturday by their Bishop. They would receive the white garment and wear it throughout Easter Week. "Receive this white garment, and carry it unsullied to the judgment seat of our Lord, Jesus Christ, that you may have lifer everlasting."

The priest then gives the candidate a lighted candle, saying: "Receive this burning light. Safeguard your baptism by a blameless life. Keep the commandments of God, thou when our Lord shall come for the heavenly nuptials you may meet Him together will all the saints in the court of heaven, and live there forever