



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

1. What are some choices you have already made for your child (or that you have observed parents making for their children)? What would be the potential consequences of delaying these decisions until the child is old enough to make those decisions for him/herself? Why do you think it is important for you to choose Baptism for your child (or to support the parents in choosing for their child)? What are some of the reasons you are choosing Baptism for your child or godchild?

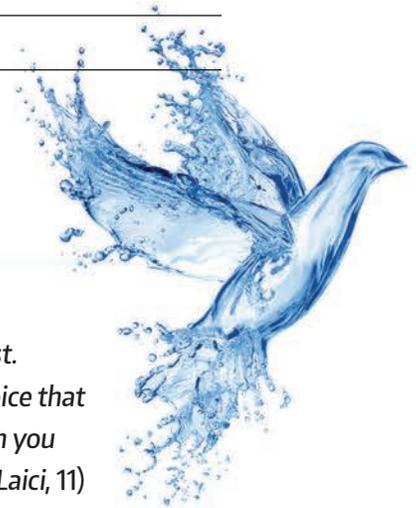
2. Baptism brings us into the family of God, the Church. This means so much more than just being welcomed into the local parish. The family of God stretches across time and culture. What does it mean to you to be a part of the family of God? How will you help your child or godchild understand and live out his or her identity as part of the family of God?

3. The *Catechism* states, "Incorporated into Christ by Baptism, the person baptized is configured to Christ. Baptism seals the Christian with the indelible spiritual mark (character) of his belonging to Christ" (CCC 1272). This indelible seal marks us as belonging to God, and nothing can change or erase the seal of Baptism. What does it mean to you to be marked as belonging to Christ? Why is it important to you that your child or godchild be marked by this seal now?

FLYING HIGHER

"With Baptism we become children of God in his only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Rising from the waters of the baptismal font, every Christian hears again the voice that was once heard on the banks of the Jordan River: 'You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.'"

—St. John Paul II (*Christifideles Laici*, 11)



▶ PARENT/GODPARENT PROMISE

TO THE PARENT

The Baptism of your child will be a once-for-all, life-changing event. Studying and prayerfully preparing for this significant occasion is an opportunity to look not only to your child's future as a member of the family of God, but also to reflect on the meaning and effects of your own Baptism.

As a parent choosing Baptism for your child, you will be asked to renew your own baptismal vows. Reflect on the questions from the Renunciation of Sin (form A) in the Rite of Baptism:

*Do you reject Satan?
And all his works?
And all his empty promises?*

After rejecting sin, you will be asked to make a profession of faith for yourself and your child. Afterwards the priest or deacon says:

*This is our faith.
This is the faith of the Church.
We are proud to profess it, in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Faith is both communal and individual. As your child grows, he or she will need to develop a unique, individual relationship with Christ and make your faith, the faith of the Church, his or her own personal faith as well. All of that begins with this decision you make for the spiritual well-being of your child. Your faith and commitment now and in the years to come have a very real impact on the fruits that baptismal grace will bear in the life of your child.

Consider the effects of your Baptism and your own life of faith, the faith you will profess at your child's Baptism. What is going well in your spiritual life? Where could you use some improvement to be the best model and guide for your child?



Baptism of St. Ursula / Scala / Art Resource, NY