

THE ROMAN RITUAL

TITLE II – CHAPTER 2

THE RITE FOR THE BAPTISM OF CHILDREN

The priest asks the infant (if several are to be baptized; in the singular, for individuals):

N. What do you ask of the Church of God?

The godfather (sponsor) responds: Faith.

Priest: What does Faith offer you?

The godfather (sponsor) responds: Everlasting life.

2. Priest (also in the singular for individuals):

If, then, it is life that you wish to enter, keep the commandments. Love the Lord your God with your whole heart, and with your whole soul, and with your whole mind; and love your neighbor as you love yourself.

3. He then blows gently three times on the face of the infant, saying once (in the singular for individuals):

Depart from him (her), unclean spirit, and give place to the Holy Spirit, the Consoler.

4. After that, using his thumb, he makes the sign of the cross on the forehead and on the breast of the infant saying (in the singular for individuals):

Receive the sign of the Cross on your + forehead and in your + heart. Have faith in the teachings of God, and live in such a way that from now on you may be enabled to be a temple of God.

For one male or one female

Let us pray. Prayer

O Lord, we implore Thee, in Thy kindness hear our prayers, and guard with unfailing power this Thy chosen N., who has been stamped with the seal of the Lord's cross; so that, holding fast to the first truths he (she) has learned of Thy great glory, he (she) may, by keeping Thy commandments, attain to the glory of rebirth. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

For several

Let us pray. Prayer

O Lord, we implore Thee, in Thy kindness hear our prayers: and guard with unfailing power these Thy chosen servants, N. N., who have been stamped with the seal of the Lord's cross; so that, holding fast to the first truths they have learned of Thy great glory, they may, by keeping Thy commandments, attain to the glory of rebirth. Through Christ our Lord. R. Amen.

5. Next he places his hand on the infant's head (of individual children) and then, with his hand extended, he says:

For one male or one female

Let us pray. Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, be pleased to look upon this Thy servant, N., whom in Thy goodness Thou hast called to be instructed in the Faith. Rid him (her) of all blindness of heart; break all the nets of Satan in which he (she) has been entangled. Open to him (her), Lord, the gate of Thy mercy so that, penetrated by the sign of Thy wisdom [salt], he (she) may be rid of the stench of all evil desires and, moved by the pleasing fragrance of Thy teachings, may joyfully serve Thee in Thy Church and daily advance in perfection. Through Christ our Lord. R Amen.

For several

Let us pray. Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, be pleased to look upon these Thy servants, N. N., whom in Thy goodness Thou hast called to be instructed in the Faith. Rid them of all blindness of heart; break all the nets of Satan in which they have been entangled. Open to them, Lord, the gate of Thy mercy, so that, penetrated by the sign of Thy wisdom [salt], they may be rid of the stench of all evil desires and, moved by the pleasing fragrance of Thy teachings, may joyfully serve Thee in Thy Church and daily advance in perfection. Through Christ our Lord. R Amen.

6. Next the priest blesses the salt. Once blessed, the salt may be used again for the same purpose.

Blessing of Salt

O salt, creature of God, I exorcise you in the name of God the Father almighty and in the love of our Lord Jesus Christ and in the strength of the Holy Spirit. I exorcise you by the living God, the true God, the holy God, the God Who brought you into being to safeguard the human race, and commanded you to be

consecrated by His servants for the benefit of those who are coming into the Faith, so that by the power of the Holy Trinity you might become a health-giving sacrament to put the enemy to flight. Therefore we beg Thee, O Lord our God, to sanctify by Thy power of sanctification this salt which Thou hast created and to bless it with Thy blessing, so that it may become a perfect medicine for all who receive it and may remain always in every fiber of their being. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who will come to judge the living and the dead and the world by fire. **R.** Amen.

7. Then he places a bit of blessed salt into the infant's mouth saying as he does (in the singular for individuals):

N. Receive the salt of wisdom. May it win for you mercy and forgiveness, and life everlasting. **R.** Amen.

Priest: Peace be with you. **R.** And with your spirit.

For one male or one female

Let us pray. **Prayer**

God of our fathers, God the Author of all truth, we humbly implore Thee to look with favor on this Thy servant, **N.**, and grant that he (she) who is now tasting this salt as his (her) first nourishment may not hunger much longer before he (she) is given his (her) fill of heavenly food, so that he (she) may always be ardent of soul, rejoicing in hope, and ever loyal to Thy name. Bring him (her), O Lord, we ask Thee, to the font of the new birth, so that in company with Thy faithful servants, he (she) may gain the eternal rewards that Thou hast promised. Through Christ our Lord. **R.** Amen.

I exorcise you, unclean spirit, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Come forth, depart from this servant of God, **N.**, for He commands you, spirit accursed and damned, He Who walked upon the sea and extended His right hand to Peter as he was sinking. Therefore, accursed devil, acknowledge your condemnation and pay homage to the true and living God; pay homage to Jesus Christ, His Son, and to the Holy Spirit, and depart from this servant of God, **N.**, for Jesus Christ, our Lord and God, has called him (her) to His holy grace and blessing, and to the font of Baptism.

For several

Let us pray. **Prayer**

God of our fathers, God the Author of all truth, we humbly implore Thee to look with favor on these Thy servants, **N. N.**, and grant that they who are now tasting this salt as their first nourishment may not hunger much longer before they are given their fill of heavenly food, so that they may always be ardent of soul, rejoicing in hope, and ever loyal to Thy name.

Bring them, O Lord, we ask Thee, to the font of the new birth, so that, in company with Thy faithful servants, they may gain the eternal rewards that Thou hast promised. Through Christ our Lord. **R.** Amen.

I exorcise you, unclean spirit, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Come forth, depart from these servants of God, **N. N.**, for He commands you, spirit accursed and damned, He Who walked upon the sea and extended His right hand to Peter as he was sinking.

Therefore, accursed devil, acknowledge your condemnation and pay homage to the true and living God; pay homage to Jesus Christ, His Son, and to the Holy Spirit; and depart from these servants of God, **N. N.**, for Jesus Christ, our Lord and God, has called them to His holy grace and His blessing, and to the font of Baptism.

8. Here, using his thumb, the priest signs the infant on the forehead, saying (in the singular for individuals):

Then never dare, accursed devil, to violate this sign of the holy cross + which we are making upon his (her) forehead. Through Christ our Lord. **R.** Amen.

9. Next he places his hand on the head of the infant (of individual children) and then, with his hand extended, he says:

For one male or one female

Let us pray. **Prayer**

O holy Lord, almighty Father, eternal God, Source of light and truth, I ask for this Thy servant **N.**, Thy fatherly love, eternal and most just, so that Thou mayest be pleased to enlighten him (her) with the light of Thy understanding. Cleanse and sanctify him (her); grant him (her) true knowledge, so that he (she) having been made fit for the grace of Thy Baptism, may retain unwavering hope, true judgment, and sacred teaching. Through Christ our Lord. **R.** Amen.

For several

Let us pray. **Prayer**

O holy Lord, almighty Father, eternal God, Source of light and truth, I ask for these Thy servants **N. N.**, Thy fatherly love, eternal and most just; so that Thou mayest be pleased to enlighten them with the light of Thy understanding. Cleanse and sanctify them; grant them true knowledge, so that they, having been made fit for the grace of Thy Baptism, may retain unwavering hope, true judgment, and sacred teaching. Through Christ our Lord. **R.** Amen.

10. After this, the priest places the end of the stole which hangs from his left shoulder upon the infant, and leads the first infant (whom the rest follow) into the church, saying:

For one male or one female

N. Enter the temple of God, so that you may take part with Christ in everlasting life. **R.** Amen.

For several

N. N., enter the temple of God, so that you may take part with Christ in everlasting life. R. Amen.

11. When they have entered the church, the Priest, proceeding to the Font, with the sponsors joined with them, in a clear voice says:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell; the third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven; and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty; thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I 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. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

12. And then, before he arrives at the Baptistry, with his back turned toward the entrance of the Baptistry's grating, says:

Exorcism

For one male or one female

I exorcise you, every unclean spirit, in the name of God the Father almighty, and in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Judge, and in the strength of the Holy Spirit, that you may depart from this creature of God, N., whom our Lord has called to His holy temple in order that he (she) may become a temple of the living God and that the Holy Spirit may dwell in him (her). Through Christ our Lord, Who will come to judge the living and the dead and the world by fire. R. Amen.

For several

I exorcise you, every unclean spirit here, in the name of God, the Father almighty, and in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Judge, and in the strength of the Holy Spirit, that you may depart from these creatures of God, N. N., whom our Lord has called to His holy temple in order that they may become temples of the living God and that the Holy Spirit may dwell in them. Through Christ our Lord, Who will come to judge the living and the dead and the world by fire. R. Amen.

13. After this, the priest takes saliva from his mouth with his thumb (the use of salive in touching the ears and nostrils of the infant may be omitted for a reasonable cause, to safeguard cleanliness or to avoid the danger of contracting or spreading disease, so that in such a case the prescribed touching with its formula is omitted) and he touches the ears and nostrils of the infant. While he touches the ears, first the right, then the left ear, he says (in the singular for individuals):

Ephpheta, which means "Be opened,"

He then touches the nostrils, saying:

So that you may perceive the gragrance of God's sweetness. But you, O devil, depart; for the judgment of God has come.

14. Next he questions the one to be baptized, addressing him by name (in the singular for individuals).

N. Do you renounce Satan?

The godfather (sponsor) responds: I do renounce him.

Priest: And all his works?

The godfather (sponsor): I do renounce him.

Priest: And all his display?

The godfather (sponsor): I do renounce it.

Anointing with Oil

15. Dipping his thumb in the oil of catechumens, the priest anoints the infant on the breast and between the shoulders, making the sign of the cross and saying once (in the singular for individuals):

I annoint you with the oil of salvation, in Christ Jesus our Lord, so that you may have everlasting life. **R.**
Amen.

16. He then wipes his thumb and the anointed places with cotton or with something similar.

In the Baptistry

17. While standing there at the entrance to the baptistry, he takes off the violet stole and replaces it with a white one. He then enters the baptistry, with the sponsors and the infant.

The priest asks at the Font of the infant to be baptized (infants to be baptized), with the name expressed, and the sponsor replies:

N. Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?

R. I do believe.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was born into this world and suffered for us? R. I do believe.

And 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.

R. I do believe.

18. Then, addressing the candidate for baptism by name, the priest says (in the singular for individuals):

N. Do you wish to be baptized?

The godfather (sponsor) responds: R. I do.

Baptism

19. Then, while either the godfather or godmother (or both) holds the infant, the priest takes baptismal water in a vessel or pitcher and pours it three times on the head of the infant in the form of a cross. At the same time, he pronounces the following words, once only, distinctly, and attentively (in the singular for individuals):

N., I baptize you in the name of the Father, + (he pours the first time) and of the Son, + (he pours the second time) and of the Holy + Spirit (he pours the third time).

20. Moreover, when there is a custom of baptizing by immersion, the priest takes up the infant, and, taking care lest he do any injury, carefully immerses the infant, and baptizes it with a triple immersion, and only once says:

N. I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

21. Then the godfather, or godmother, or both at the same time lift the infant from the sacred Font, taking him from the hand of the priest.

22. Should there be doubt whether the infant has been previously baptized, the following formula is to be used:

N. If you are not baptized, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Anointing with Chrism, etc.

23. Then the priest dips his thumb in the sacred chrism and anoints the infant on the crown of the head in the form of a cross, saying as he does (in the singular for individuals):

May almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who has given you a new birth by means of water and the Holy Spirit and forgiven all your sins, anoint you with the Chrism of salvation in Christ Jesus our Lord, so that you may have everlasting life. Amen.

Priest: Peace be with you. **R.** And with your spirit.

24. Then with cotton or something similar he wipes his thumb and the place anointed. The priest places upon the head of the baptized infant the white linen cloth in place of the white garment, as he says (in the singular for individuals):

Receive this white robe and carry it unstained to the judgment seat of our Lord Jesus Christ, so that you may have everlasting life. **R.** Amen.

25. After this the priest gives a lighted candle to the infant or to the sponsor, saying (in the singular for individuals):

Receive this lighted candle, and keep your Baptism above reproach. Keep the commandments of God, so that when the Lord comes to His marriage feast you may meet Him in the halls of heaven with all His saints, and may live with Him forever. **R.** Amen.

26. In conclusion, he says:

For one male or one female

N. Go in peace, and may the Lord be with you.

R. Amen.

For several

Go in peace, **N. N.** and may the Lord be with you. **R.** Amen.