

INFANT BAPTISM

17. A. INFANTS SHOULD BE BAPTIZED WITHIN THE FIRST WEEKS AFTER BIRTH. THE SACRAMENT SHOULD ORDINARILY BE CELEBRATED WITHIN A SUNDAY EUCHARISTIC LITURGY (cf. Rite of Baptism for Children, # 9 and 32).
- B. FOR THE LICIT BAPTISM OF AN INFANT IT IS NECESSARY THAT 1) THE PARENTS OR AT LEAST ONE OF THEM OR THE PERSON WHO LAWFULLY TAKES THEIR PLACE GIVES CONSENT; 2) THERE BE A FOUNDED HOPE THAT THE INFANT WILL BE BROUGHT UP IN THE CATHOLIC RELIGION; IF SUCH A HOPE IS ALTOGETHER LACKING, THE BAPTISM IS TO BE PUT OFF ACCORDING TO THE PRESCRIPTIONS OF PARTICULAR LAW [cf. below] AND THE PARENTS ARE TO BE INFORMED OF THE REASON (c. 868, #1).

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- C. EVEN BEFORE THE BIRTH OF AN INFANT, THE PARENTS AND THE SPONSORS ARE TO BE PREPARED BY THE PRIEST, DEACON OR QUALIFIED LAY PERSON FOR THE TASK OF GIVING CHRISTIAN FORMATION TO THE CHILD (cc. 867 and 851).
- D. THE PRIEST OR DEACON MAY BAPTIZE ONE WHO, IN DANGER OF DEATH, DESIRES TO BE BAPTIZED OR IS PRESENTED FOR BAPTISM, USING THE SHORTER FORM (cf. c. 868, #2). IN SUCH CASES, THE PRIEST MAY ALSO CONFIRM (cf. c. 883, #3).
- E. A CHILD ALREADY VALIDLY BAPTIZED IS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE CHURCH AND RECEIVED BY THE PRIEST OR DEACON, USING THE RITE OF BRINGING A BAPTIZED CHILD TO THE CHURCH.
- F. SPONSORS (cf. cc. 872, 873, and especially 874, which gives the requirements for sponsorship):
1. THE MINISTER OF THE SACRAMENT MAY ADMIT A MEMBER OF AN ORTHODOX CHURCH TO ACT AS A GODPARENT (SPONSOR), TOGETHER WITH A CATHOLIC GODPARENT, AT THE BAPTISM OF A CATHOLIC INFANT OR ADULT, SO LONG AS THERE IS PROVISION FOR THE CATHOLIC EDUCATION OF THE PERSON BEING BAPTIZED; AND HE MAY ASSURE A CATHOLIC WHO HAS BEEN INVITED TO BE A GODPARENT IN AN ORTHODOX CHURCH, THAT HE MAY DO SO, IT BEING UNDERSTOOD IN BOTH INSTANCES THAT THERE IS NO OBJECTION ON THE PART OF THE INTERESTED ORTHODOX PRIEST.
 2. THE MINISTER OF THE SACRAMENT MAY ADMIT A CHRISTIAN OF ANOTHER COMMUNION, SINCE HE HAS FAITH IN CHRIST, AND BECAUSE OF TIES OF FRIENDSHIP OR BLOOD, TO ACT AS A CHRISTIAN WITNESS AT THE BAPTISM OF A CATHOLIC, TOGETHER WITH A CATHOLIC GODPARENT; AND HE MAY ASSURE A CATHOLIC THAT HE MAY SO ACT, BUT ONLY AS A CHRISTIAN WITNESS, AT THE BAPTISM OF A RELATIVE OR FRIEND IN A SEPARATED COMMUNITY, ASSUMING THAT THIS MEETS WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE INTERESTED MINISTER OF THE OTHER COMMUNION.