

CONVOCAATION OF YORK

September, 1951

AN ORDER FOR THE MINISTRATION OF PUBLIC BAPTISM OF INFANTS

THE PREPARATION

When the people are gathered round the font (which is to be filled with pure water), and the Minister has been assured that the child has not already been baptized he shall proceed after this manner:

Beloved, you have brought *this child* to be baptized. You are asking for *him* a gift from God. Our Saviour Christ himself said, None can enter into the Kingdom of God, except he be born again of water and of the Holy Ghost. In the sacrament of holy Baptism, the outward sign of which is washing by water, our heavenly Father promises to give *this child* that which by *his* own nature *he* cannot have, that is to say, new birth as a child of God, the forgiveness of sin, and an inheritance in his eternal kingdom.

That you may be sure of the goodwill of God towards *this child*, hear in the Gospel how the Lord Jesus received the children brought to him.

THE GOSPEL (St. Mark, X, 13).

They brought young children to Christ that he should touch them; and his disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the Kingdom of God. Verily, I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the Kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them.

Answer: Praise be to thee, O Christ.

Then shall the Minister and congregation pray for the child brought to be baptized.

Minister: Let us say together,

Minister and People: Almighty God, our heavenly Father; look graciously upon *this child*; embrace *him* with the arms of thy mercy; cleanse and sanctify *him* by thy Holy Spirit; and take *him* into the family of thy Church; that *he* may live in thy love and favour for ever; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE DUTIES OF PARENTS AND GODPARENTS

Here shall the parents and godparents stand forth before the congregation and the Minister shall address them:

You have accepted the responsibility of *this child's* up-bringing within the family of Christ's Church. To this end it will be your duty as parents and godparents:

First, to see that *he* is taught the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments as set forth in the Church Catechism, and all other things which a Christian ought to know and believe to his soul's health.

Secondly, to help *him* by your example and your prayers, as well as by your teaching, to be diligent in public worship and in private prayer, to be true and just in all *his* dealings, and to lead a godly and Christian life.

Thirdly, to bring *him* in due time to the bishop to be confirmed so that *he*, being strengthened with the Holy Communion of the Body and Blood of Christ, may go forth into the world to serve God faithfully in the fellowship of his Church.

Do you promise, in the presence of God and of this congregation, that you will perform these duties faithfully?

Parents and Godparents: I do.

Minister: God grant you strength and power to do all these things that you have promised. Amen.

THE THREE-FOLD PROMISE, MADE BY THE GODPARENTS

Minister: You have pledged yourselves to this responsibility; it is also your solemn duty as godparents to make the three-fold promise on behalf of *this child*.

Do you, in the name of this child, renounce all that is evil, and promise to resist the temptations of the devil, the world and the flesh, so that you will not follow nor be led by them?

Answer: I do.

Minister: Do you, in the name of this child, promise to hold fast the Christian Faith?

Answer: I do.

Then shall the godparents with the Minister say the Apostles' Creed.

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker 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, dead, and buried, He descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead, He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; The holy Catholick Church; The Communion of Saints; the forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body; And the life everlasting. Amen.

Minister: Do you, in the name of this child, promise obedience to God's will and commandments?

Answer: I do.

Then, all the people standing, the Minister shall say:

O merciful God, grant that *this child* may have power and strength to have victory and to triumph against the devil, the world and the flesh.

Answer: Amen.

Minister: Grant that, being steadfast in faith, joyful through hope, and rooted in charity, *he* may at the last come to thy heavenly kingdom through thy mercy, O blessed Lord God, who dost live and govern all things, world without end.

Answer: Amen.

THE BLESSING OF THE WATER

Then shall the Minister say:

The Lord be with you ;

Answer: And with thy spirit.

Minister: Lift up your hearts ;

Answer: We lift them up unto the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God ;

Answer: It is meet and right so to do.

Minister: It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty that we should give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty Everlasting God, because thou didst give thy most dearly beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be made man and to suffer death for the forgiveness of our sins, to bring us out of darkness into his glorious light: who after his mighty resurrection did send his Holy Spirit upon the disciples, giving them commandment to go teach all nations and baptize them In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Hear, we beseech thee, the prayer of thy Church ; sanctify this water to the mystical washing away of sin ; and grant that *this child* now to be baptized therein, may receive the fulness of thy grace and ever remain in the number of thy faithful children ; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Spirit be all honour and glory, now and for evermore. *Amen.*

THE BAPTISM

Then shall the Minister take the child into his arms, or by the hand, and shall say to the godfathers and godmothers:

Name this child.

And then naming the child after them, he shall dip it in the water, or pour water on it, saying:

N., I baptize thee in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, Amen.

THE RECEPTION

Then the Minister shall say:

We receive this child into the congregation of Christ's flock, and do sign * *him* with the sign of the Cross in token that hereafter *he* shall not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified, and manfully to fight under his banner against sin, the world and the devil ; and to continue Christ's faithful soldier and servant unto *his* life's end. *Amen.*

* *Here shall the Minister make a Cross upon the child's forehead.*

Then the Minister, still holding it in his arms, or by the hand, shall pronounce the blessing upon it, after which he shall give the child again to the godparents.

N., the Lord take thee into his holy household, clothe thee with the robe of innocency, write thy name in the Book of Life, and keep and govern thee evermore. *Amen.*

THE THANKSGIVING

Then shall the Minister say:

Let us give thanks unto Almighty God, and with one accord make our prayer for *this child* in the words of our Saviour Christ, saying together,

Then shall be said by all (standing):

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name ; Thy kingdom come ; Thy will be done ; in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation ; but deliver us from evil : For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, For ever and ever. *Amen.*

Minister: We yield thee hearty thanks, O merciful Father, that it hath pleased thee to give *this infant* new birth by thine own Spirit ;

Answer: We thank thee, O God.

Minister: And to receive *him* for thine own child ;

Answer: We thank thee, O God.

Minister: And to graft *him* into the body of Christ's Church.

Answer: We thank thee, O God.

Minister: And to make *him* an inheritor of thine everlasting Kingdom.

Answer: We thank thee, O God.

Minister: Praise ye the Lord ;

Answer: The Lord's name be praised.

Then shall follow this prayer for the home.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, whose blessed Son did share at Nazareth the life of an earthly home: Bless, we beseech thee, the home of *this child* ; and grant to all who have the care of *him* wisdom and understanding, grace and faith in thee, that they may bring *him* up in thy constant fear and love ; through the same thy Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Then shall the Minister say:

Peace be with you all ;

Answer: And with thy spirit.

Minister: Let us bless the Lord ;

Answer: Thanks be to God.

Then he may dismiss the congregation with this blessing:

Minister: The blessing of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost rest upon you now and always. Amen.

The Ministers of every Parish shall admonish the people that they bring their children to Baptism as soon as possible after birth, and that they defer not the Baptism longer than the fourth, or at furthest the fifth, Sunday unless upon a great and reasonable cause.

Notice of Baptism should be given in writing to the minister a week before the proposed day.

It is proper that a child be brought for Baptism either to the church of the parish in which the parents dwell or to the church where they habitually worship.

And note, it is desirable that for every male child to be baptized there shall be two godfathers and one godmother, and for every female one godfather and two godmothers. Parents may be sponsors for their own child provided that the child shall have one other sponsor.

The Font shall be set in as spacious and well ordered surroundings as can be compassed. When not in use it must be decently covered ; and a reverent care at all times should be given to the seemliness and dignity of its appointments.

It is desirable that Baptism should on due occasion be administered at Morning or Evening Prayer upon Sundays and other Holy Days when the most number of people come together ; both that the congregation may testify the receiving of them that be newly baptized into the number of Christ's Church, and also that everyone present may be put in remembrance of his own profession made to God in his baptism.

If the Baptism be held at Morning or Evening Prayer, it shall follow the Second Lesson, and be followed by the second Canticle, Versicles and the Collects ; the Creed, Lesser Litany and Lord's Prayer being omitted.

Should the disposition of the church and the seating render it appropriate, any part of the service, other than the Blessing of the Water, the naming and the Baptizing of the child, may take place, in the discretion of the minister, at the entrance of the Chancel facing the people.

In case of dangerous illness of the child, no minister being available, a lay person present may name the child and pour water upon it, saying:

N., I baptize thee in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

And then those that are present shall say the Lord's Prayer. And afterwards notice of the Baptism shall be given to the minister of the parish and the child's name duly entered in the parish register. Further, if the child do live, it shall be brought to the church that it may be received publicly into the congregation.