

National Directory for Catechesis
Catechesis for Baptism
USCCB 2005

- Teaches that Baptism (1) is the foundation of the Christian life because it is the journey into Christ's death and Resurrection which is the foundation of our hope; (2) gives sanctifying grace, that is, God's life; (3) gives them a new birth in which they become children of God, members of Christ, and temples of the Holy Spirit; (4) cleanses people from original sin and all personal sins; (5) incorporates them into the life, practices and mission of the Church; (6) and imprints on their souls and indelible character and consecrates them for Christian worship and is necessary for salvation in the case of all those who have heard the Gospel and have been able to ask for this sacrament
- Teaches that through Baptism we receive a share in the mission of Christ as king, priest, and prophet
- Teaches that Baptism "symbolizes the catechumen's burial into Christ's death, from which he rises up by resurrection with him, as 'a new creature'"
- Teaches that Baptism is "the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit...and the door which gives access to the other sacraments
- Teaches that through Baptism the faithful share in the priesthood of Christ, in his prophetic and royal mission
- Teaches that the Most Holy Trinity gives the baptized sanctifying grace, the grace of justification: (thus "the whole organism of the Christian's supernatural life has its root in baptism")
 - 'enabling them to believe in God, to hope in him and to love him through the theological virtues'
 - 'giving them the power to live and act under the prompting of the Holy Spirit through the gifts of the Holy Spirit'
 - 'allowing them to grow in goodness through the moral virtues'
- Teaches that "having become a member of the Church, the person baptized belongs no longer to himself, but to him who died and rose for us. From now on he is called to be subject to others, to submit to the Church's leaders, holding them in respect and affection
- Includes a thorough explanation of the Rite of Baptism together with the fundamental signs and symbols that it employs; immersion in or the pouring of the water, the words of the Trinitarian formula and the anointing with oil
- Teaches that the ordinary minister for the Sacrament of Baptism is a priest or deacon (in the Eastern Catholic Churches the priest is the only ordinary minister of Baptism, since Chrismation follows immediately) but that, in the case of necessity, any person who intends to do what the Church does can baptize by pouring water on the candidate's head and saying the Trinitarian formula