



Baptismal Preparation Model I

A. For Whom

It is a programme suitable for 5 to 20 couples. Preferably both parents of young candidates would participate, but not necessarily.

B. Leadership

Lay or/and clergy. Parish-appointed sponsors (in addition to any which the candidate (parents) might choose) are necessary.

1. At least one person or couple per parish if a cluster event.
2. One sponsor for at most three candidates.

C. Format

Friday evening and all-day Saturday, non-residential programme similar to marriage preparation models.

The purpose is to undertake the immediate preparation of candidates (or parents and sponsors) for baptism and to relate this sacramental act to the Christian life.

D. Programme

1. Prior registration with forms submitted through the parish priest.

2. **Friday evening:**

Stand-up socializing, over food/drink in order to build community.

Session 1:

Story Telling with specific attention to experiences of new beginnings/changes.

Goals:

- (i) To acquaint participants with each other and the programme.
- (ii) Explore the life of Christ in terms of death, resurrection and new life.

3. **Saturday morning:**

Session 2:

The Face of the Lord (slide presentation and discussion).

Goal:



Explore the life of Christ with special reference to similarities/differences between his life and ours.

Session 3:

The Purpose of Baptism (Bible study of Acts 2: 22-41)

Goal:

Acquaint participants with Biblical norms of baptism and their application today.

4. **Saturday afternoon:**

Session 4:

The History of Baptism (video and discussion)

View "*Godparent Gussie*" and discuss using baptismal rite.

Goals:

- (i) Acquaint participants with the history and development of baptismal rite.
- (ii) Acquaint participants with the theology of the baptismal rite.

Session 5:

Christian Discipline/Expectations of Baptism

(Bible study of Matthew 28:16-20, Mark 3:13ff)

Covenanting process.

Goals:

- (i) Explore the practical implications of baptism in terms of the church's expectations of candidates (parents) and candidates' expectations of the church.
- (ii) Prepare a covenant between parish (represented by parish sponsor) and candidate (or parents).

5. **Liturgy:**

One of the rites during the catechumenate.

6. **Saturday evening:**

Session 6:

Ongoing Formation - view and discuss the filmstrip "*Beginnings of Faith*" (using one of four strips).

Goal:

To re-emphasize that initiation into the faith must be followed up with continuous instruction and ongoing nurture both at church and in the home.



7. **In (home) Parish:**

Liturgies on Sundays:

- (i) *"An Order of Admitting Candidates for Baptism"* with follow-up prayers until date of baptism.
- (ii) Rehearsal and *"Vigil on Eve of Baptism"*.
- (iii) *"Prayers for New Christians"* after baptism.