

## Looking Ahead

In this chapter, the Holy Spirit invites you to ▶



**EXPLORE** how Charles Lwanga helped people live their faith in Christ.



**DISCOVER** the meaning of Baptism.



**DECIDE** how to serve others as Jesus did.

# CHAPTER 10

## The Sacraments of Christian Initiation: Baptism

**?** Think of a time that you joined with friends to become members of a group. What actions did you take to demonstrate that you belonged with the group?

John the Baptist was standing in the Jordan River. He was inviting people to turn their lives back toward God. The Gospel tells us that Jesus came down to the Jordan when John was there. Listen to what the Gospel of Mark tells us:

*It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."*

MARK 1:9-11

**?** What do these words from Mark's Gospel tell you about Jesus? What does the Church do to help you have a sense of belonging to God?

## Disciple Power

### Modesty

Modesty is one of the Fruits of the Holy Spirit. These are signs that a person is cooperating with the grace of the Holy Spirit. A modest person protects his or her inner self. Modesty encourages a person to respect the dignity of every human person, including oneself.

# THE CHURCH FOLLOWS JESUS

## Saint Charles Lwanga

Charles Lwanga, like Saint John the Baptist, called people to conversion. He called people to change their lives. He called them to turn back to God. He called them to be steadfast in their living as God wants them to live.

In the late 1800s, Catholic missionaries were successfully spreading the Gospel in central Africa, including modern-day Uganda. One of these Catholic missionary groups was the Society of Missionaries of Africa. These missionaries were so successful that many people converted and were baptized. One such convert was Charles Lwanga.

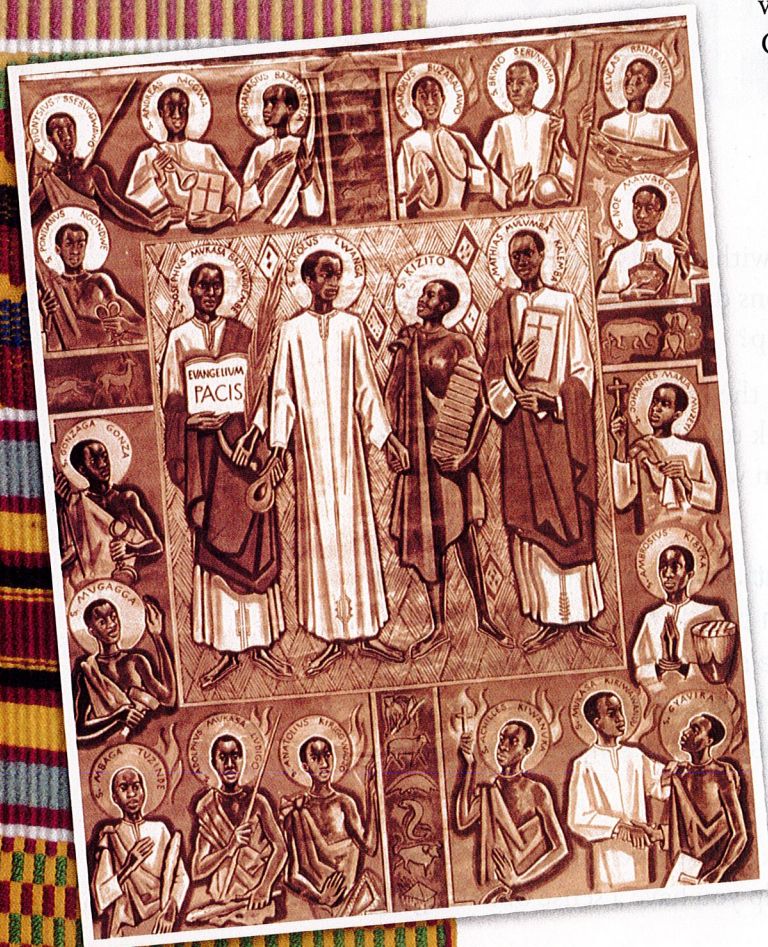
Charles lived in a kingdom violently ruled by a ruthless man, King Mwanga. He was cruel to children, especially teenage boys, who were his servants. In secret, Charles taught the Catholic faith to many of these young boys. He taught them that they belonged to God and that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and Savior. Charles taught them to protect themselves from Mwanga's violent and sinful ways. They must respect their God-given dignity.

King Mwanga became furious with Charles. In great anger, the king ordered the gates of his compound closed so that no one could leave. Fear spread. Charles gathered those who were Christians for prayer. Others joined them and were baptized that night.

King Mwanga summoned all of his servants and demanded that they choose to side with him or Christ. Charles stood and chose Christ. Others followed. This enraged Mwanga even more, so he had them put to death.

Saint Charles Lwanga and his companions suffered because of their faith. They protected the dignity of their bodies with their lives. They were the first canonized Saints from modern Africa.

**?** Who are three people you know or have heard about who have stood up to protect the dignity of people? How do their actions show their love for Christ?



# The Sacrament of Baptism

Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist are the three Sacraments of **Christian Initiation**. Through the celebration of these three Sacraments, beginning with **Baptism**, a person is joined to Christ and his Body, the Church. The unity of all three Sacraments of Christian Initiation is required for the complete initiation of a person into the Body of Christ, the Church.

The first Sacrament of Christian Initiation uses baptismal water. Water can be both a sign of life (as in a flowing stream) and of destruction (as in a raging flood). Throughout the history of God's people, water has been a sign of cleansing from sin and being reborn into new life. The Church has understood the events of Noah's ark (read Genesis 7:6-23), the Crossing of the Red Sea (read Exodus 14:26-31), and the Jordan River as moments when God provided a new beginning for his Chosen People.

## New Life in Christ

Christ instituted, or gave, the Church, the Sacrament of Baptism and the six other Sacraments. Jesus showed us the beginning of new life in him when he allowed John to baptize him in the Jordan River.

On the Cross, the crucified Jesus is a sign of new life with his pierced side flowing with blood and water (read John 19:31-37). Christ makes possible our entrance into the Kingdom of God by giving the Church this Sacrament. In Baptism, we die to sin and are reborn into a new life with God the Holy Trinity. Since the early days of the Church, both adults and children have been baptized. Baptism is the gateway, or doorway, to new life in the Holy Spirit and to Salvation in Christ.

### FAITH FOCUS

What does the Church teach about the Sacrament of Baptism?

### FAITH VOCABULARY

#### **Baptism**

Baptism is the Sacrament of Christian Initiation in which we are joined to Jesus Christ, become members of his Church, and are reborn as God's adopted children. We receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, and Original Sin and personal sins are forgiven.

#### **Christian Initiation**

Christian Initiation is the liturgical process by which a person becomes a full member of the Church.

#### **sanctifying grace**

Sanctifying grace is the grace that heals our human nature, wounded by sin, by giving us a share in the divine life of the Holy Trinity.

### Activity

Write or draw some of your ideas for a mural about Baptism.





# Faith-Filled People

## The Prophets

The Old Testament prophets received the grace to be living witnesses for God. Their words and actions called God's people to live the Covenant. When the prophetic preacher John the Baptist baptizes Jesus, the Old Testament time of promise ends and Jesus' ministry and the time of fulfillment begin.

## The Rite of Baptism

In different ways, the sign of water in the Old Testament prepared for its use in the Sacrament of Baptism. In the prayers for the blessing of the water used in Baptism, we hear why water is a symbol of the story of Salvation. For example, in the Book of Exodus, we read that God led his people through the water of the Red Sea, saving them from slavery.

God saves us from sin in the water of Baptism. By hearing the words and following the actions the Church uses in the celebration of Baptism, we can come to know the meaning of this Sacrament.

The Rite of Baptism in the Latin Church always includes the minister of the Sacrament immersing a person three times into the baptismal water or pouring the water three times over the person's head. The minister of Baptism does this action saying, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." These are the essential elements of the celebration. Without these words and actions, there is no Baptism.

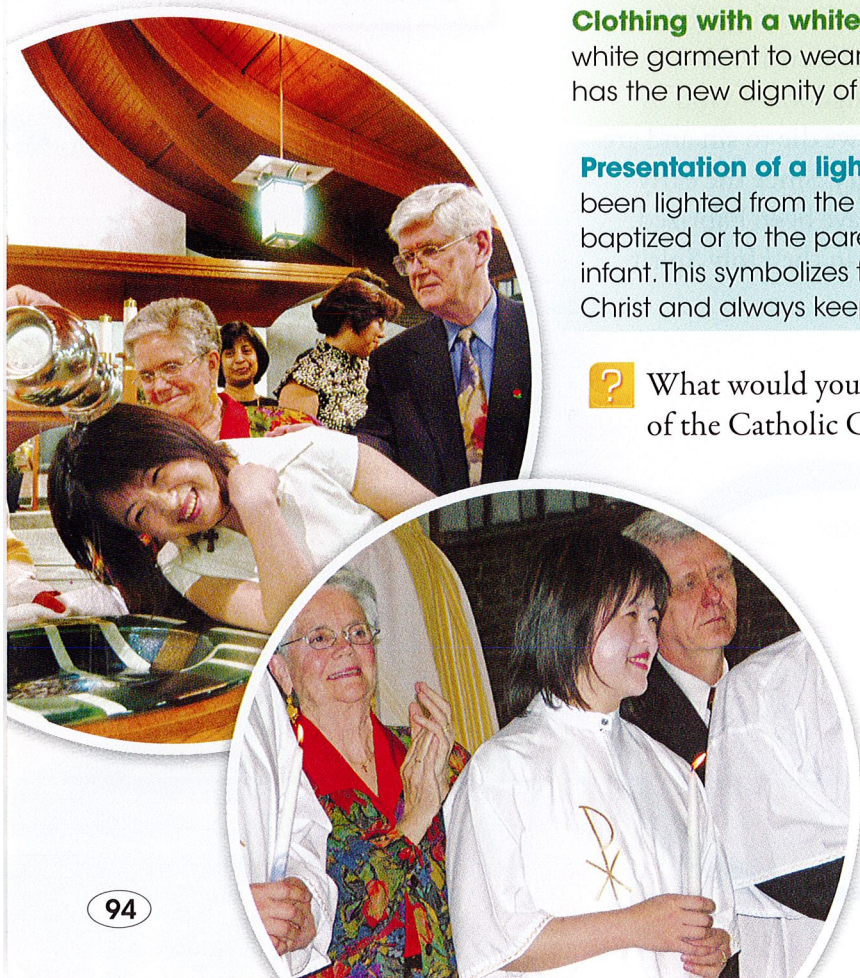
The celebration of Baptism also has these parts, or ritual actions:

**Anointing with Chrism:** The minister anoints the baptized person with sacred Chrism. This signifies that the person shares in the work of Christ the Priest, Prophet, and King.

**Clothing with a white garment:** The baptized person is given a white garment to wear. This is a sign that the newly baptized person has the new dignity of one who has been joined to the Risen Christ.

**Presentation of a lighted candle:** A baptismal candle that has been lighted from the Easter candle is presented to the newly baptized or to the parents and godparents of a newly baptized infant. This symbolizes that the baptized person is to walk always with Christ and always keep the flame of faith alive in his or her heart.

**?** What would you ask an adult who recently became a member of the Catholic Church?



## The Graces of Baptism

What happens when we are baptized? The term sacramental graces is used to tell us what happens. It tells us what effects Baptism has on a person who is baptized. These are the sacramental graces a person who is properly baptized receives:

- We are joined to Christ in his dying and rising. We receive new birth in Christ and we become adopted sons and daughters of God the Father.
- We receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- We become members of the Church, the Body of Christ, and are made sharers in the priesthood of Christ.
- We receive the gift of **sanctifying grace**. We are freed from all sin—Original Sin and personal sins.
- We are spiritually marked as belonging to Christ forever. This mark, which no sin can erase, is called a sacramental character. This mark means that Baptism can be received only one time and can never be repeated.

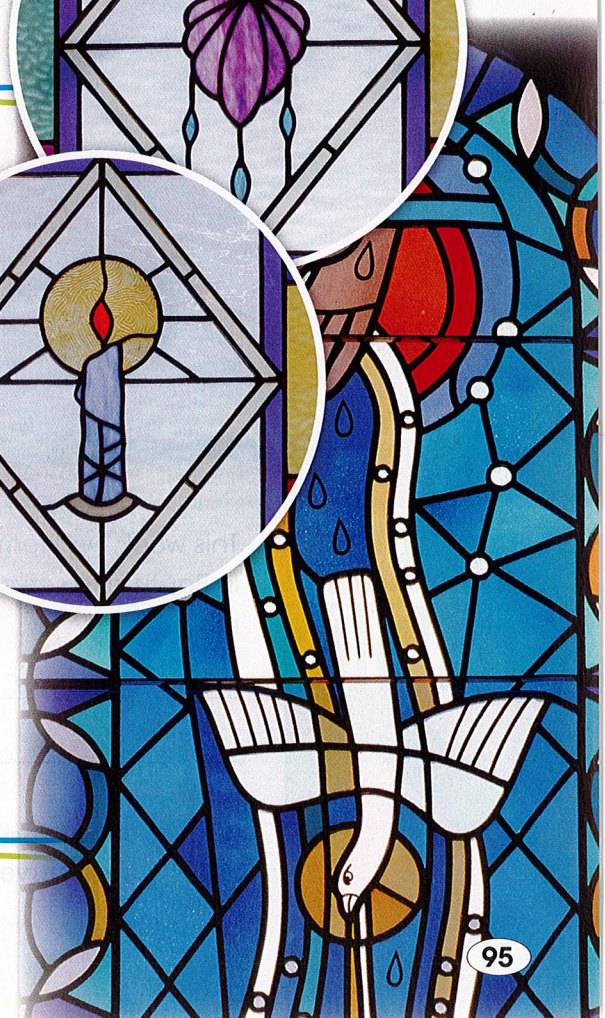
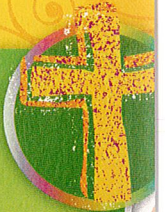
Baptism, as with all Sacraments, is the work of the Church. It is the work of Christ and the members of the Church.

**Activity** Create an image for Baptism that includes one or more of its ritual elements.

## Catholics Believe

### Chrism

Sacred Chrism is one of the three oils that the Church uses in her rituals. Chrism is primarily used to consecrate (to set aside for a holy purpose) people, places, and things for the service of God and his people. Chrism is used in the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders. It is also used to consecrate churches and altars.

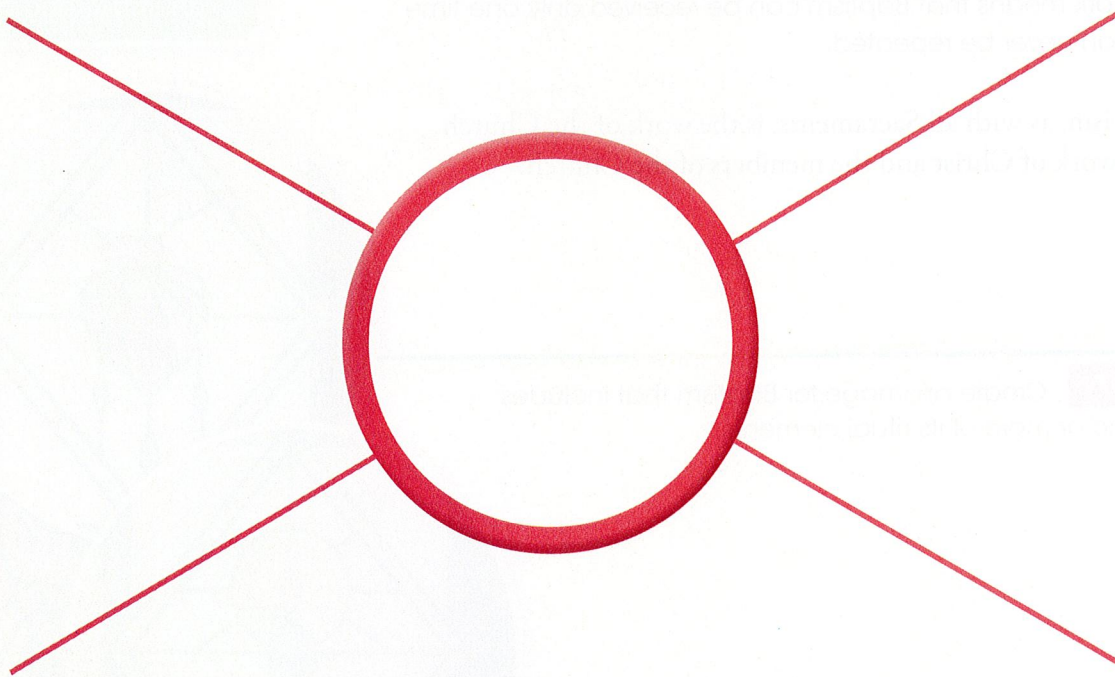


# I FOLLOW JESUS

In Baptism, the minister (priest or deacon) anointed the crown of your head with Chrism. He said that God was now anointing you to serve others as Jesus did. Remembering that Jesus served others with humility and modesty, complete the activity below.

## ANOINTED TO SERVE

In the circle, write one thing you can do to serve others as Jesus did. On each of the four lines coming out from the circle, write how that action helps protect the dignity of the person you are serving.



## MY FAITH CHOICE

This week, I will remember how I was chosen by God and anointed with Chrism in Baptism to serve him and others as Christ did. I will put on Christ and will act modestly by

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Pray, "Jesus you are the Son of God, the One who shows us how to love and serve God. Help me to be humble and modest like you."

# Chapter Review

Write *T* if the statement is true. Write *F* if the statement is false.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ The Sacrament of Baptism is our gateway to life in the Holy Spirit.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Through Baptism, we are spiritually marked as belonging to Christ.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Baptism frees us from all future sins.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ In the Rite of Baptism, both water and oil are used.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Baptism is a Sacrament that can be repeated.

## ▶ TO HELP YOU REMEMBER

1. A person becomes fully initiated into the Church through the celebration of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.
2. Baptism is the first Sacrament we receive; it is the doorway to new life in the Holy Spirit and Salvation in Christ.
3. Through Baptism, we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. God makes us sharers in his divine life. We are called to serve others as Christ did.

# Bless Us Today, Lord

*In the Old Testament, kings and priests were anointed with oil. This was a sign that they were chosen by God for a special service to God's people. Anointing with oil was also a sign that God would be with them to help them in their work. Use this prayer to recall God's presence with us.*

**Leader:** In Baptism, we were anointed with Chrism as members of the Body of Christ, the Church. Let us recall our anointing at Baptism. *(Pause.)*

Lord, you freed us from sin in the water of Baptism.  
*(Raise a clear bowl of water.)*

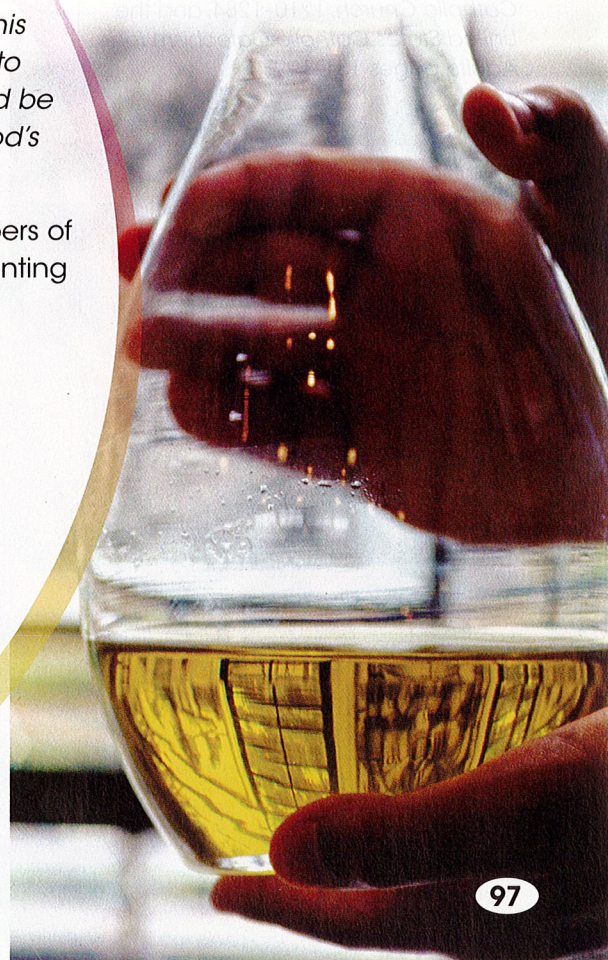
**All: Bless us today, Lord.**

**Leader:** Lord, you anointed us as members of Christ's Body.  
*(Raise a container of oil.)*

**All: Bless us today, Lord.**

**Leader:** Lord, you are the Light of the world.  
*(Lift up a candle.)*

**All: Bless us today, Lord.**



# With My Family

## This Week . . .

**In Chapter 10**, “The Sacraments of Christian Initiation: Baptism,” your child learned:

- ▶ Through Baptism, we first receive new life and Salvation in Christ and become members of the Church, the Body of Christ.
- ▶ Through the baptismal water and the grace of the Holy Spirit, Original Sin and everything that separates us from God is washed away.
- ▶ In Baptism, we are sealed with the gift of faith helping us to participate in the life and work of the Church.
- ▶ As disciples of Jesus, we are to be modest in all aspects of life.

**For more** about related teachings of the Church, see the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1210–1284, and the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*, pages 181–199.

## Sharing God’s Word

**Read** together John 3:3–6. Emphasize that through the Sacrament of Baptism, we are reborn of water and the Holy Spirit.

## We Live as Disciples

**The Christian family** and home is a school of discipleship. Choose one of the following activities to do as a family, or design a similar activity of your own:

- ▶ Water can symbolize many things. Talk about what water symbolizes for you. Share ideas about how water helps you understand what happens in Baptism.

- ▶ Place a dish of holy water in a convenient location in your home. Bless each other and yourselves as you come and go during the day and before bedtime. Remember that in Baptism, we are made sharers in the life of God.

## Our Spiritual Journey

**Daily rituals** that involve the use of water fill our lives each day. These can be sacred moments. Stop and pause as you wash your hands or take a drink of water. Remember the gift of living water that you received and that is vital to your life as a follower of Jesus.



For more ideas on ways that your family can live as disciples of Jesus, visit

[www.BeMyDisciples.com](http://www.BeMyDisciples.com)