

Call to Celebrate: Baptism

Suggested Format for a One-Day, Two-Hour Session

Before the Session

In advance of the session, ask participants to:

- ▶ Read the Godparent Information Sheet, p. 41.
- ▶ Reflect upon and complete the "Spiritual Hopes and Dreams" activity sheet, p. 7 of the *Parent Handbook*.
- ▶ Reflect upon and complete the "Original Sin" activity, pp. 8–9 of the *Parent Handbook*.

Session Outline and Suggested Times

- 1** Welcome by Facilitators & Review of Session Goals
10 minutes
- 2** Introduction of Participants
15 minutes
Include an Icebreaker Question of your choice
- 3** Opening Prayer
5 minutes
Communion of Saints information and prayer (pp. 55–56)
- 4** Identifying Hopes and Dreams for Your Child (pp. 36–37)
15 minutes
Invite parents to share general non-spiritual hopes and dreams they have for their child. Record responses on newsprint. Invite parents to share the spiritual hopes and dreams they have for their child as they recorded on the activity sheet before coming to the session. Summarize responses on newsprint, noting common themes. Share with parents your own response to the question "What do you ask of God's Church for your child?" Encourage parents to continue discussing this topic in the days ahead.
- 5** Committing Your Child to Christ (pp. 53–54)
15 minutes
Begin by reading the quote on the bottom of p. 53 (*Rite of Baptism*, 77). Continue with activity as scripted.
- 6** Break
5 minutes
- 7** Choosing Godparents (p. 35)
10 minutes
- 8** The Prayer of Exorcism and Original Sin (p. 57)
20 minutes
Parents will have read and completed questions in advance.
- 9** Anointing with the Oil of Chrism (p. 68)
15 minutes
After parents complete activity sheet, omit partner sharing. Invite responses to the large group only.
- 10** Closing Prayer
10 minutes
Baptismal Promises (pp. 70–71)