Baptism Preparation — Policy No. 601

Policy Statement: Parents requesting the Sacrament of Baptism for their infant or child are required to participate in a process of preparation before the celebration of Baptism.

Sponsors are also to receive instruction on the meaning of the Sacrament of Baptism and their obligations (Can. 851 §2).

Intent of Policy: This ministry to parents should be viewed as spiritual guidance, formation, pastoral care, and catechesis. The preparation of parents for the Baptism of their child should be characterized by a sincere love and concern for the family, a desire to deepen their relationship to God and the Church. It should assist them in arriving at a deeper appreciation of Baptism and their own vocation as Christian parents. In the case where parents have not been fully initiated in the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and First Eucharist, a ministry to parents may be an opportunity to encourage parents to complete their own initiation.

Definition: **Baptism preparation** is instruction on the basic teachings of the Church to provide parents with a fundamental understanding of the faith into which they are committing to raise their child (Can. 851 §2).

Procedure: Parents are to attend Baptism Preparation as outlined by the parish.

Baptism Preparation should emphasize the requirements of a sponsor. (Policy No. 605 Selection of Sponsor)

Sponsors are also to receive instruction on the meaning of the Sacrament of Baptism and their obligations (Can. 851 §2).

If a parish does not have the resources to provide Baptism Preparation to parents and sponsors, the parish may collaborate with another parish or parishes in order to fulfill this preparatory obligation.

Exception: Parents of subsequent children may be exempt of Baptism Preparation as determined and at the discretion of the pastor to prevent unnecessary repetition for parents and sponsors.

Also Refer to Policy:

No. 605 Selection of Sponsor