

Baptismal Living



All of Christian life is to be lived wet out of our baptism. We don't just get baptized or affirm or reaffirm our baptism and then go on our merry way as though life is no different.

A good catechumenate equips us in Holy Spirit to continue to grow in faith and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. We practice the spiritual disciplines of prayer, communal and personal worship, scripture reading, study, and service to the world as part of the body of Christ.

Each of us has been given certain unique gifts with which to minister to the world.

After the ritual that concludes the catechumenate proper (baptism, affirmation or reaffirmation of baptism), consider drawing the group together to do the following, after opening with prayer, of course:

1. Have the group share their experiences of the baptismal worship service in which they were baptized, or confirmed or reaffirmed their baptism. Specifically, what does their experience mean regarding how they will continue to grow in Christ?
2. Consider continuing, if it comes up. Some may express regret in not meeting together formally anymore. Some may not. Of course, they can continue to function as a small group, meeting for prayer, study, and service. It might be a good idea to talk about making a covenant to do this, though, for people get busy and the best intentions fizzle in the face of life's myriad demands. If we've made a covenant with one another, though, we're much more likely to take it seriously. Ideally, this group will grow to the point where they'll be eager in a year or so to become guides for other catechumens. But let the Spirit blow wherever he/she/it will.
3. Take a [gifts inventory](#) to discover their gifts. This can be done online prior to meeting so that you use the time interpreting and talking about the results and affirming one another's gifts.
4. Have each person take a blank sheet of paper and divide it into quadrants labeled friends and family, work/study, church, community/world. Have them list one or two things in each quadrant that they are committing to do as a way of serving Christ with their gifts.
5. Have them address a stamped envelope to themselves and put the paper in it and seal it. Mail this to them in about six weeks.