

***“Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God’s Call”***

Handout for the Reflection  
Please take home

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church we read:

In article 1213 Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit, and the door, which gives us access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission: “Baptism is the sacrament of regeneration through water and the word.

In article 1216 we find a quote from St Gregory of Nazianzus that states: Baptism is God’s most beautiful gift...We call it gift, grace, anointing, enlightenment, garment of immortality, bath or rebirth, seal and most precious gift. It is called *gift* because it is conferred on those who bring nothing of their own; *grace* since it is given even to the guilty; *Baptism* because sin is buried in the water; *anointing* for it is priestly, and royal as are those who are anointed; *enlightenment* because it radiates light; *clothing* since it veils our shame; *bath* because it washes; and *seal* as it is our guard and the sign of God’s Lordship.

In the book “Meeting Jesus in the Sacraments” Pope Francis writes “The sacraments express and realize an effective and profound communion among us, for in them we encounter Christ the Savior, and through him, our brothers and sisters in faith. The sacraments are not mere appearances, they are not rituals; **they are the power of Christ; Jesus Christ is present in the sacraments.** With each of the sacraments come special graces that help us.” Pope Francis tells us that “every encounter with Christ, who in the sacraments gives us salvation, invites us to **“go” and communicate to others** the salvation that we have been able to see, to touch, to encounter, and to receive, and which is truly credible because it is love. In other words **we are to go out and live the sacraments.**

Baptism becomes a way of life when:

- We realize we are called to participate in building the kingdom of God
- We see the opportunity to volunteer as a gift from God
- We give people their dignity by making them feel welcome
- We are present to one another in their time of joy and of sorrow
- We live the Works of Mercy
- We see **all** women of our council as being loved by God and so we love them as well

***Inspired by the Spirit  
Women Respond to God's Call***

***Spiritual Reflection  
Making Sacraments a Way of Life***

**1. *Before the meeting:***

- Place a bowl of Holy Water and a Candle on a table making it a focal point
- Make copies of the handout so the ladies can follow along when you are reading the articles from the Catechism and the book "Meeting Jesus in the Sacrament"

*As this is the educational component of your spiritual report please do this at the time you would make your report. You could also do this as your opening spiritual. Adjust as you want.*

**2. *The Opening and Closing Prayers for the meeting will incorporate the Sacrament of Baptism***

**Opening Prayer for Meeting:**

Lord tonight we gather for our monthly CWL meeting and we are reminded that we are women of faith who give you praise, ask for your forgiveness, listen to your word, put your words into action as we have all been called through our Baptism to be active participants in your family of believers.

**3. *Let us now join together and pray our League Prayer***

**4. *When your give your report you use that time for the reflection:***

**5. *Distribute the handout and light the candle***

**6. *Begin by reading the following:***

As we develop our new national theme we are challenged to look inside ourselves and examine how we manifest God's love through our actions. When we do this we begin connecting with some of our fundamental teachings that have shaped our beliefs. We soon discover that our beliefs are not a separate part of our lives but they are our lives. A major part of this shaping is the sacraments. When we have a closer look at our sacraments we begin to realize that they are more than events; they are a way of life.

Tonight we are going to look at what the Church says about the Sacrament of Baptism found in the Catechism of the Catholic Church and what Pope Francis shares in the book "Meeting Jesus in the Sacraments. "

## 7. *Please follow along as I read:*

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church

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## 8. *You Continue*

9. We listened to what the Catechism and Pope Francis said about this sacrament. Let us now reflect on how we can live it. How do we make it become alive in our homes, councils and community?

**10. I would like you to break up in two's and discuss one or two of the suggestions as well as add your own. We will take approximately 5 minutes to do this.**

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- We see **all** women of our council as being loved by God and so we love them as well

**11. Having reflected on ways we can live this sacrament let us now acknowledge our own Baptism.**

*I am going to ask each of you to come up one at a time and dip your hand in the holy water and make the sign of the cross thinking about the Trinity who lives in you.*

**12. When everyone has returned to their seat end with the closing prayer**

**13. Closing Prayer: for the Spiritual**

Lord we give you great thanks for the gift of Baptism. Help us to remember to live it as we go about the busyness of our lives. Help us bring your light to the world as we care and sacrifice for others. Continue to shower the graces of Baptism upon us so that we can witness to your truth. We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord and the intercession of our Lady of Good Counsel. Amen

**Closing Prayer for the Meeting:**

We give you great thanks for our sisters in the League. Help us always to remember that we carry your presence in our being and that we are to be a reflection of your love to everyone we meet. We make our prayer through your Son Jesus Christ and the intercession of Our Lady of Good Counsel. Amen

Let us give one another a sign of peace

