

A Memory Aid for The Sacrament of Baptism



"Baptism now saves you." 1 Peter 3:21

Baptismal Prayer

The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life † everlasting. Amen.

First

What is Baptism?

Baptism is not just plain water,
but it is the water
included in God's command
and combined with God's word.

Which is that word of God?

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew:
"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father
and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit"
(Matthew 28:19).

Second

What benefits does Baptism give?

It works forgiveness of sins,
rescues from death and the devil,
and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this,
as the words and promises of God declare.

Which are these words and promises of God?

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark:
"Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved,
but whoever does not believe will be condemned"
(Mark 16:16).

Third

How can water do such great things?

Certainly not just water,
but the word of God in and with the water does these things,
along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the water.
For without God's word the water is plain water and no Baptism.
But with the word of God it is a Baptism,
that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace,
and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit,
as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three:

"He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal
by the Holy Spirit,
whom He poured out on us generously
through Jesus Christ our Savior,
so that, having been justified by His grace,
we might become heirs
having the hope of eternal life.
This is a trustworthy saying"
(Titus 3:5-8).

Fourth

What does such baptizing with water indicate?

It indicates

that the Old Adam in us
should by daily contrition and repentance
be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires,
and that a new man should daily emerge
and arise to live before God
in righteousness and purity forever.

Where is this written?

St. Paul writes in Romans chapter six:

"We were therefore buried with Him
through baptism into death
in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead
through the glory of the Father,
we too may live a new life"
(Romans 6:4).

