

Christian Initiation News and Notes

December 2018

“Adults who, after hearing the mystery of Christ proclaimed, consciously and freely seek the living God and enter the way of faith and conversion as the Holy Spirit opens their hearts.”
(*Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, Intr. #1, 1988)

May we begin the Year of Grace 2019 joined with the catechumens in their state of desire as they seek to become a child of God through baptism. And may our families, parishes, and communities reflect the love of God made incarnate in Jesus Christ to everyone we encounter these Advent and Christmas Seasons.

JANUARY 2019 CHRISTIAN INITIATION NEWS AND NOTES will include the basic forms necessary for the annual celebration of the Rite of Election and Enrollment of Names of Catechumens and Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates on the First Sunday of Lent, March 10, 2019. The necessary procedure and on-site information packet will be sent in direct mail.

WORKSHOP SAVE-THE-DATE: Saturday, May 18, 2019

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults Part II: Rites of Particular Circumstance, Children and Youth of Catechetical Age; Presenter: Mary Malloy, the Senior Editor for RCL Benziger Publishing Company in Cincinnati, Ohio; 8:30 AM – 2:30 PM; Location and Fee TBA

TESTIMONY FOR BAPTISM DETERMINATION FORM

(repeated from November 2018)

Candidates for full communion and candidates for completion of the initiation sacraments may not receive the sacraments of Confirmation and the Most Holy Eucharist without supplying a certificate of proof of a valid baptism. This form is to be used in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown as proof of baptism in the circumstance when no formal documentation can be found after a thorough search has been made. This can avoid the need for a “conditional baptism.”

The **Testimony for Baptism Determination** form was developed by the Coordinator of Christian Initiation, Jeanne Thompson, in consultation and with approval by the Judicial Vicar, Very Rev. John D. Byrnes, JV, JCL and the Vicar General, Very Rev. Alan E. Thomas. This form is approved for immediate use.

The form is to be completed by the candidate, their witness, and the pastor or administrator. It is to be imprinted with the parish seal and mailed to the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown in care of the Chancellor, Mrs. Teresa M. Stayer at 927 South Logan Blvd. Hollidaysburg, PA 16648. The form will be approved, sealed and then returned to the parish.

PASTOR INVESTIGATION FORM

It is the policy of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown that a form for every Catechumen and Candidate needs to be submitted to the Office of Christian Initiation when their intent becomes serious. It is an

information gathering tool at the parish level and for the review of the office of the Tribunal if it becomes necessary to begin completion of forms for dispensations or the process of an Annulment.

VALID AND IN-VALID BAPTISM LISTS

A current list of eastern rite and denominational church baptisms that are accepted as valid by the Catholic Church has been supplied for pastors and administrators to assist in the completion of the **Pastor Investigation Form** for each catechumen and candidate.

The *Testimony for Baptism Determination Form*, *Pastor Investigation Form*, and *Valid and In-Valid Baptism Lists* can be downloaded for print from www.dioceseaj.org. Printed copies can be obtained by contacting the Office of Christian Initiation.

RESOURCE LIST ADDITIONS

Catholic Update: December 2018: *THE ORIGIN OF Christmas Traditions A WINDOW TO OUR FAITH* (Christopher M. Bellitto, PhD, October 31, 2018 Liguori Publications, A Redemptorist Ministry.)

Catholic Updates (Liguori.org/Catholic-Update) continue to be an ongoing, user friendly, catechetical and liturgical resource for the Church. Quantity discounts are available.

Holiday Spirituality In the Home, Thanksgiving to Epiphany, Family Life Office, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, familylife@dioceseaj.org Why order elsewhere when our own diocese has the best! Call 814-886-5551 for a quick order turn around.

YOUTH PROTECTION

All paid staff members and volunteers in parishes are required to be in compliance with the Diocesan and State requirements. Non-compliant persons must complete the training before continuing in ministry. You can access all forms on the website: www.dioceseaj.org Youth Protection. Please email or call Cindy O'Connor at 814-317-2621 or coconnor@dioceseaj.org with questions.

PARISH VISITS

Parish team assistance sessions can be scheduled at any time with Jeanne Thompson. This is an immediate manner of helping with ongoing team formation and assist with parish concerns.

Website: Diocesan News and Calendars for all special events, adult catechetical and formation offerings, and registrations for diocesan-wide events can be downloaded from this valuable communication tool. The Christian Initiation site can be found under Ministries. The bi-weekly Diocesan Mailings can be accessed on the homepage under DIOCESE at the bottom of the left hand column. Forms and announcements, bulletin inserts, and *Christian Initiation New and Notes*, etc., are posted as part of the diocesan mailing as well as on the Christian Initiation website.

OFFICE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION

925 South Logan Boulevard, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

Coordinator: Jeanne Thompson 814-693-9605, ext 2672; 814-317-2672; jthompson@dioceseaj.org

Secretary: Dotty Caminiti 814-693-9605, ext 2647; 814-317-2647 dcaminiti@dioceseaj.org

Fax: 814-696-6725 **Website:** www.dioceseaj.org, Ministries, Christian Initiation



DIOCESE OF ALTOONA-JOHNSTOWN

TESTIMONY FOR BAPTISM DETERMINATION

This document is to be completed for a Candidate (the already baptized) for whom there is no verification of baptism after a thorough search has been done. The completed form is to be mailed to the Chancellor of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown for authorization. It will be returned to the parish for official sacrament documentation.

CANDIDATE

Full Name: _____
(Include maiden name)

Address of Candidate: _____

City/Town

State

Zip Code

WITNESS

Full Name: _____
(Include maiden name)

Address of Witness: _____

City/Town

State

Zip Code

WITNESS QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Are you related to this party? _____
 - a. If so, in what determination? _____
 - b. If not, how long have you known this candidate? _____
2. Are you aware that this candidate is contemplating full membership in the Catholic Church? _____

WITNESS STATEMENT ON BAPTISMAL STATUS:

1. To your knowledge has this party ever been baptized or "christened" in any Christian denomination? _____
(Please note: a "Dedication" is not a baptism)
2. Were you present at the celebration of baptism? _____
3. What was the age of the candidate when he/she was baptized? _____

- 4. Where did the baptism take place? _____**
Please name the Church, denomination, and location as fully as you can

- 5. Can you recall if the baptism was performed in the Trinitarian formula**
“I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit” as water
was being poured or the candidate was being immersed (or plunged) in water?

- 6. Do you recall any family members or others who were present too?**
List by name or relation: _____

INTENT AND CAPACITY

If the candidate was baptized at the age of fourteen or older, were you aware that their request to be baptized was made in full freedom without any outside pressure? ____Yes ____No

If “No” please explain _____

Signature of Witness

Signature of Pastor or Administrator

Parish

Place	Date
-------	------

(Seal of Parish)

Approved and accepted with authority of the
Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown.

Signature of Chancellor

Place

Date

(Seal of Chancery)

**Please mail to: Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown
Mrs. Teresa M. Stayer, Chancellor
927 South Logan Blvd.
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648**