

A CHRISTENING CEREMONY

It is with great joy that we have come together to acknowledge the living Spirit of Christ within the soul, and exquisite tiny form of this infant child.

The rite of christening is a recognition of the loving presence of God and the infinite power of God in each child. It is an outward expression of the union of the child with the Christ which dwells within him.

Through this service of dedication, you are recognizing, not only the perfection of your child, but you have come to rededicate yourselves to the high and holy calling of parenthood. It is important that parents understand the gift of new life which this child represents.

You have been given a sacred responsibility, that of taking charge of an immortal soul on its way to demonstrating its Godhood. When you, as parents, live up to the highest and best that you know...when you continue to grow in your own spiritual unfoldment, you then fulfill your God-given privilege.

As your child grows and matures, his attitudes, his feeling about himself and the world, his abilities to share and to contribute to a better world...all of these will be directly influenced by the environment in which he lives.

If the atmosphere of the home is spiritually centered, loving and harmonious, he will be loving and outgoing. If there is respect and consideration for all family members, he will reflect these qualities in his relationships outside the home. If he is made aware, even at this early age, that he is God's perfect child, and therefore entitled to health, happiness and productive living, he will be a blessing to all who cross his path in life.

Kahlil Gibran has expressed this gift of life very wisely and beautifully:

Your children are not your children.

They are the sons and daughters of life's

longing for itself.

They come through you, but not from you.

And though they are with you, yet they

belong not to you.

You may give them your love, but not your

thoughts.

For they have their own thoughts.

You may house their bodies, but not their
souls,

For their souls dwell in the house of
tomorrow, which you cannot visit, not
even in your dreams.

You may strive to be like them, but seek not
to make them like you.

For life goes not backward nor tarries with
yesterday.

You are the bows from which your children,
as living arrows, are sent forth.

The Archer sees the mark upon the path of
the infinite, and He bends you with His
might, that His arrows may go swift and
far.

Let your bending in the Archer's hand be for
gladness;

For even as He loves the arrow that flies,
so He loves also the bow that is stable.

—Kahlil Gibran

Let us take the time now to acknowledge this child's origin, that from the realms of
the infinite and eternal, he has come to bless, and learn, and grow, together with you,
his loving family of souls.

Now, beloved, as you say aloud the name of this child, may your words be a prayer
for wisdom and guidance. Will you name this child?

PARENT. (Speaks child's name)

I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit – the
Father in whom you live and move, the Son, the Christ within you, and the Holy Spirit,
the moving, creative principle of all life.

(Hold child as prayer is given for spiritual awakening for the child, wisdom and guidance for the parents, and as consecration of the child to a rich life of service to God and Man.)

In the name of Jesus Christ.....Amen.