

To Know To Believe To Live – KBL2 Baptism 3 Official Handout

02.13.21 Version

Developed by Msgr. Michael Clay

Copyright 2021, Msgr. Michael Clay, All Rights Reserved.

Unauthorized copying or redistribution of this document in print or electronic format is strictly prohibited.

BAPTISM

Part III: Baptismal Prophet

- I. Review of Office of Prophet from Kerygma Series (Module 9):
 - A. In the Bible, not someone who can foretell the future (an oracle) but someone highly in tune with the will of God for the world and for individuals in the present who is sent as God's messenger to proclaim that will and its consequences if not followed (forewarns)
 - B. In Christianity, the prophetic person has a deep concern for life and for others (e.g., Laudato Si' by Pope Francis)
 - C. Prophets call others to basic truths of God that people forget or don't know due to spiritual amnesia or ignorance (e.g., care for the poor, protection of life, etc.).
 - D. Every baptized person is endowed with this potential

- II. Call to Witness: Internal (In House):
 - A. Witness by example (e.g., selfless love, forgiveness, mercy) as a reflection of the Lord with family.

 - B. Parents forming children in their faith (e.g., teaching prayers, telling them about God and Jesus, teaching Christian values, correcting them when they err/forget, etc.)

 - C. Parish Catechists/Bible Study Facilitators/ Social Ministry Educators or Organizers

- III. Call to Witness: External (In the World):
 - A. Speaking Up at Work When Your Religion/Christian Values Are Being Actively Maligned

 - B. Standing Up for Gospel Values When They Are Being Ignored or Are Unknown

 - C. Standing Up for Catholic Social Teaching

 - D. Initiating Conversation with Someone Who Has No Religious Affiliation

To Know To Believe To Live – KBL2 Baptism 3 Official Handout

02.13.21 Version

Developed by Msgr. Michael Clay

Copyright 2021, Msgr. Michael Clay, All Rights Reserved.

Unauthorized copying or redistribution of this document in print or electronic format is strictly prohibited.

IV. Discussion:

- A. Discuss a time/experience when you exercised your prophetic office in an internal way and/or in an external way. '=
- B. Catholics tend to exercise their prophetic office more internally than externally. Why might that be?
- C. Can you think of a Catholic Christian who is/was strong as an external witness to Jesus and the Good News? How did their witness impact others?

V. The Call to Witness: A Contemporary Challenge in the U.S.:

- A. The prophetic office involves spreading the Good News and witnessing to Jesus Christ
- B. Slowly but surely U.S. Catholic Christians are failing in increasing numbers to spread the Good News and witness to Jesus Christ, both internally and externally
- C. Consequence: U.S. Catholicism is headed for a demographic collapse in next 10 years (Weddell, 70)

To Know To Believe To Live – KBL2 Baptism 3 Official Handout

02.13.21 Version

Developed by Msgr. Michael Clay

Copyright 2021, Msgr. Michael Clay, All Rights Reserved.

Unauthorized copying or redistribution of this document in print or electronic format is strictly prohibited.

Sacraments and Rites	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2019
Baptisms of infants in previous year	1,089m	894,992	943,632	953,323	986,308	981,444	582,331
Baptisms of adults in previous year	84,534	80,035	88,942	87,996	85,600	66,886	35,138
Receptions into full communion in previous year	-	-	-	-	-	76,176	54,655
Confirmations in previous year	-	-	-	-	491,360	555,767	556,418
First Communion in previous year	-	-	-	-	849,919	794,576	600,816
Marriages in previous year	426,309	369,133	350,745	348,300	326,079	294,144	137,885
Catholics who attend Mass weekly	54.90%	42.00%	42.20%	39.90%	32.50%	26.40%	21.10%
Catholics who attend Mass at least once a month	71.30%	57.60%	63.70%	54.70%	57.20%	50.60%	45.30%
Catholics praying at least weekly	-	-	80.80%	83.80%	76.10%	85.50%	80.80%
Catholics who say their religious affiliation is "strong"	45.80%	38.40%	44.10%	44.30%	36.20%	34.70%	32.20%

D. Growing phenomenon of “baptized unbelievers”

E. Many children being baptized have parents who neither believe nor practice the faith and are not attempting to pass on the faith to their children. (Weddell, 50)

F. 14% of millennial Catholics attend Mass on a weekly basis (CARA) (Millennial: born between 1981-1996)

G. 11% of millennial Catholic parents have enrolled their children in some kind of parish-based faith formation. (CARA)

H. 68% of all Catholic parents have not enrolled their children in any type of formal faith formation. (CARA)

To Know To Believe To Live – KBL2 Baptism 3 Official Handout

02.13.21 Version

Developed by Msgr. Michael Clay

Copyright 2021, Msgr. Michael Clay, All Rights Reserved.

Unauthorized copying or redistribution of this document in print or electronic format is strictly prohibited.

- I. Only 21% of Catholic adults believe a parish should prioritize evangelization and the spread of the gospel (Zech, 127)
- J. Catholics are the least likely across all Christian faith traditions to accept personal responsibility to share their faith with others (Barna, 2013)
- K. 31% of Catholics said “avoid discussing religion;” by comparison, agnostics/atheists were 30%! (Cooperman, 2016)

VI. Discussion:

- A. Have you ever explicitly shared the Good News of Jesus Christ with another person? Describe this. What made it possible for you to share this?
- B. What do you think can be done to help Catholics witness to Jesus Christ and his Good News in a better way?

VII. Closing Prayer (Roman Missal)

O God, who bring us to participate in the mystery
of the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of your Son
through the sacrament of Baptism, grant that,
strengthened by the spirit of adoption as your children,
we may always walk in newness of life.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. Amen.

VIII. Bibliography/Credits:

- Barna. “Is Evangelism Going Out of Style?” December 13, 2013.
- Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA). “Practice of Faith in the Catholic Family.” 08.15.
- Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA). “Sacraments Today Updated.” 05.05.17.
- Cooperman, Alan. “Many Americans Don’t Argue about Religion – or Even Talk about It.” Pew Research, April 15, 2016.
- Elmer, Scott. *Fostering Growth in the Prophetic Dimension of Baptismal Anointing in Order to Form Lay Evangelizers*. Doctor of Ministry Treatise, 2021. Used with permission.
- United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. *The Roman Missal*. Washington, DC. 2011.
- Weddell, Sherry. *Fruitful Discipleship*. Huntington, IN. 2017.
- Charles Zech, et. al. *Catholic Parishes in the 21st Century*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2017.