

# To Know To Believe To Live – KBL2 Baptism 4 Official Handout

02.13.21 Version

Developed by Msgr. Michael Clay

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## BAPTISM

### Part III: Baptismal King/Queen

#### I. Earthly Royalty and Christian Royalty:

##### A. Earthly King/Queen: someone who rules over body of people, usually a nation.

1. Some, like the King of Jordan, wield a lot of power as sovereigns.
2. Some, like the Queen of Great Britain and the British Commonwealth have more of a figure-head role but still wield a lot of power.
3. All kings and queens traditionally have unquestioned authority.

##### B. Christian Royalty:

1. God now anoints you with the Chrism of salvation, so that you may remain members of Christ, Priest, Prophet, and King unto everlasting life. (*Order of Baptism of Children*)
2. We become an *alter Christus* (another Christ) in our baptism. That being so, we are to imitate him as he lived his life as an anointed ruler (authority).

##### C. Living our Christian Royalty: Following the Example of Christ the King

1. So Jesus called them and said to them, “You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:42-45)
2. (John 13:1-15): teaching by example (washing of feet)

##### D. Discussion:

1. Have you thought of yourself as an *alter Christus* (another Christ)? What comes to mind as you consider that through baptism you are an *alter Christus*?
2. In what way(s) have you imitated Christ in the use of your authority?
3. In what way(s) might you exercise this authority in a more Christ-like way?

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## II. Royal Responsibilities of a Christian:

- A. A ruler/boss/chief/etc. coordinates the efforts/talents of a group of people in order to help them achieve a common purpose
- B. Application:
  1. Private: family (seeing that they accomplish their God-given missions, educating them, shaping them interiorly, molding their behavior, disciplining their desires, etc.)
  2. Internal: rule over ourselves rather than be ruled by sin or what our secular culture says is important (Bellon)
  3. In government, business, church, society, etc., there is a call for the baptized to bring their faith into the marketplace, the boardroom, houses of worship, and the town square (e.g., ethics, honesty, fairness, inclusion, etc.)
- C. Discussion:
  1. As you consider the three ways presented on exercising your royal office (internal with family, interior with oneself, and external with the world in which we live, work, pray, and recreate), describe one area where you have exercised your royal office well and one where more work could to be done.

## III. Reflection: How to Live Our Royal Dignity: Leaning on Jesus' Strength Rather Than Human Power

Jesus offers us an alternative to worldly power. He offers us strength and invites us to tap into his strength. As we read the gospels, we discover a Savior who is characterized by strength rather than power. Even when he is confronted by powerful people and evil, his response is one of strength rather than power. He draws from his internal strength, a resource that can never be consumed or extinguished.

What is his internal strength? He knows the truth and knows that it will ultimately outlast everything.

But what is the truth for Jesus? Here's the Good News for us! It is the same truth that is within those who have been baptized. Here it is: We are loved by God beyond all imagining and have been given the Holy Spirit to sustain us and to sustain those we meet who are suffering and frustrated.

Jesus knows this to be the very center of his being and it remains a constant in his life. It permeates all he says and does, even in the midst of the many situations and voices that try to pull him away from this truth.

When we realize what we have been given in our baptism, it can change our whole attitude towards life. We find that we are less inclined to grab for power. Instead, we experience peace and discover a strength that can help us through any problem or difficulty we may experience. And when we realize we have strength that can get us through anything we also discover that we have strength to share what we have with others.

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But first, we must discover Jesus, the source of our strength AND be willing to hand over our desire for worldly power. Both are challenges because in order to discover Jesus and HIS strength, we have to be willing to make ourselves available to him in prayer, study, and reflection. We have to surrender the busyness of our lives to discover the one who gives us strength. But the biggest challenge is to want the strength Jesus provides rather than the reward worldly power gives us. (Shea)

If we're honest, grabbing power as the world defines it is a lot easier than to accept and develop the interior strength Jesus provides. Worldly power feeds our ego; Jesus' strength tames our ego. But to the extent our ego dominates our lives, then we worship ourselves rather than God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

As we look around the world, we see lots of powerful people using their power trying to control the world. While there is something seductive about power, for the Christian the greater attraction is to the King of kings who relied on the strength he cultivated through his relationship with God.

By his strength he saved the world and has invited us to be his collaborators in bringing those living today into that saving grace and way of life.

Challenging? YES!

Impossible? NO!

Worthwhile? ABSOLUTELY!

## IV. Prayer:

O God, through our baptism you have made us your own children,  
each known to you by name,  
and have made us sisters and brothers of the King of kings, Jesus Christ.  
You have also bestowed incredible gifts upon us  
so that we may live out our calling  
to be priests, prophets, and leaders possessing a royal dignity.  
Help us to know, believe, and live what has been given to us  
so the world may know of your greatness,  
your infinite love made visible in Jesus,  
and the abiding Spirit that is always with us.

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.

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