

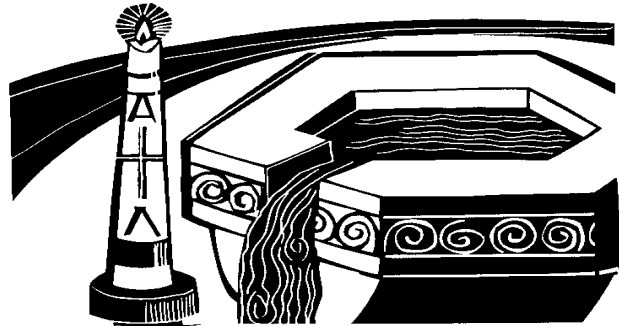


COLLEGE OF THE HOLY CROSS

Office of the College Chaplains

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS REQUESTING BAPTISM FOR THEIR CHILD AT THE COLLEGE OF THE HOLY CROSS

*“My dear children, the Christian community
welcomes you with great joy.
In its name I claim you for Christ our Savior
by the sign of his cross.”
--The Rite of Baptism for Children (#41)*



Congratulations from the College Chaplains as you prepare for the baptism of your child!
*The information in these pages is designed to help you prepare for the baptism of your child.
It is based on the guidelines of the Diocese of Worcester and College guidelines updated by
Holy Cross President Father Michael McFarland, S.J. in September 2001.*

The decision to request baptism for a child is one of the most important steps that Christians take in their role as parents. As the words of the baptism liturgy indicate, by requesting baptism “you are accepting the responsibility of training (your child) in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring him/her up to keep God’s commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbor” (#77).

In the Roman Catholic Church, baptism is understood as a celebration of the Church’s faith and of admittance into the People of God. The local Christian community has a role in the celebration of baptism as well as in assisting parents in the child’s Christian formation. For that reason, it is the practice of the Church that infants and young children are baptized in their parents’ parish church. Since Holy Cross is not a parish, infant baptisms are not celebrated in the College Chapel as a matter of course. The College Chaplains are available to assist parents without a parish affiliation to locate a parish that will meet their spiritual needs.

With the permission of the local pastor, a Jesuit priest at Holy Cross may be invited to lead the celebration of infant baptism in a parish. The Diocese of Worcester permits the celebration of infant baptism in the College Chapel for family and friends of Jesuit priests at Holy Cross. However, the College does not offer postbaptismal religious education for children or baptismal preparation sessions for parents. Universal church law and the guidelines of the Diocese of Worcester require these forms of catechesis to fulfill the true meaning of the sacrament of baptism and to support the parents’ primary role in the religious formation of their child.

The following points apply, then, to all requests to have a child baptized at the College of the Holy Cross:

- Only priests or deacons from the Jesuit Community or the Office of the College Chaplains at Holy Cross may preside at the celebration of baptism in the College Chapel.
- One of the parents must be a relative or friend of the priest or deacon who will preside at the celebration of baptism. The parents are responsible for contacting the priest or deacon and asking him to preside at the celebration of baptism.
- One of the parents or the presiding priest or deacon should contact Paul Covino in the Office of the College Chaplains to reserve the Chapel for the celebration of baptism (508-793-2428). The celebration of baptism may take place during a regularly scheduled weekend Mass at the College or at another time that does not conflict with College events in the Chapel. The baptismal font at Holy Cross is located on the lower level of St. Joseph Memorial Chapel, in the Gathering/Baptismal Space between the Mary and McCooley Chapels. This is where baptisms at Holy Cross are celebrated. The font is a beautiful large cast bronze vessel with continuously running water in which an infant or young child may be baptized by the richly symbolic and ancient practice of immersion or by the pouring of water over the child's head. Parents are responsible for providing a white baptismal garment (or gown) in which the child will be clothed following the anointing after baptism.
- The parents will obtain the written permission of their pastor for the baptism to be celebrated at Holy Cross. The letter from the pastor needs to acknowledge that the postbaptismal religious education of the child and baptismal preparation sessions for the parents will take place in the parish, not at Holy Cross.
- Parents are asked to keep the following in mind when choosing sponsors (godparents):
 - (a) Sponsors (godparents) assist the parents in presenting the child at baptism and in leading the child to profess the Christian faith and to show this by living it.
 - (b) The child may have either one godparent (male or female) or two godparents (one male and one female).
 - (c) Godparents must be Catholics who have been confirmed, received first Eucharist, and lead "a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken" (*Code of Canon Law #874-3*). A baptized non-Catholic person may serve as a witness to baptism together with a Catholic sponsor (godparent).
- Parents must provide the following information for the baptismal certificate:

(1) child's name	(4) father's name	(7) godmother's name
(2) date of birth	(5) mother's name	(8) godfather's name
(3) place of birth	(6) parents' address	
- The baptism will be registered at the Office of the Tribunal, Diocese of Worcester, 49 Elm Street, Worcester, Massachusetts 01609. Please write to this office when requesting a copy of the baptismal certificate for first Eucharist, confirmation, marriage, etc.

(revised March 11, 2011)



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Parents: Please ask your pastor for his written permission for your child to be baptized at Holy Cross. The pastor may use this page or a letter on his own stationery. Return the form to: Mr. Paul Covino, Associate Chaplain and Director of Liturgy, College of the Holy Cross, 1 College Street, Box 16A, Worcester MA 01610-2395.

Child's Name: _____

Parents' Names: _____

I grant permission for the baptism of the above child to be celebrated in the Chapel of the College of the Holy Cross. I understand that the College does not offer postbaptismal religious education for the child or baptismal preparation for the parents. Such catechesis is available to this family in this parish.

Pastor's Signature

Date

Name of Parish: _____

Address of Parish: _____

INFORMATION FOR THE BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE

(to be completed by the parents)

Parents: Please provide the following information which will be used to prepare the baptismal certificate. This information will be recorded in the Baptismal Register at the Office of the Tribunal, Diocese of Worcester, 49 Elm Street, Worcester, Massachusetts 01609. Please write to this office when requesting a copy of the baptismal certificate.

Child's Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Place of Birth: _____

Date of Baptism: _____

Father's Name: _____

Mother's (Maiden) Name: _____

Parents' Address: _____

Parents' Parish: _____

Godfather's Name: _____

Is the godfather a Catholic who has been confirmed and received first Eucharist? YES NO

Godmother's Name: _____

Is the godmother a Catholic who has been confirmed and received first Eucharist? YES NO

Priest or Deacon: _____

*Please mail, fax or e-mail this completed page to:
Mr. Paul Covino, Associate Chaplain and Director of Liturgy
College of the Holy Cross
1 College Street, Box 16A
Worcester MA 01610
fax: 508-793-3590, e-mail: pcovino@holycross.edu*