

## Facilitator Guide for BAPTISM, One 'Ohana

### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Warmly welcome parents and godparents. Invite them to share their names and the names of their infants.

### OVERVIEW OF THE SACRAMENTS

Sacraments are "powers that come forth" from the Body of Christ, which is ever-living and life-giving. They are actions of the Holy Spirit at work in his Body, the Church. They are the "masterworks of God" in the new and everlasting covenant (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1116):

The Latin word *sacramentum* means "a sign of the sacred." The seven sacraments—Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Penance, Matrimony (Marriage), Holy Orders, and the Anointing of the Sick—are the life of the Catholic Church. Each sacrament is an outward sign of an inward grace. When we participate in them worthily, each provides us with graces—with the life of God in our soul. In worship, we give to God that which we owe Him; in the sacraments, He gives us the graces necessary to live a truly human life.

The first three sacraments—Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist—are called the **sacraments of initiation**, because the rest of our life as a Christian depends on them.

**The Sacrament of Baptism:** The Sacrament of Baptism, the first of the three sacraments of initiation, is also the first of the seven sacraments in the Roman Catholic Church. It removes the guilt and effects of Original Sin and incorporates the baptized into the Church, the Mystical Body of Christ on earth.

**The Sacrament of Confirmation:** The Sacrament of Confirmation is the second of the three sacraments of initiation because, historically, it was administered immediately after the Sacrament of Baptism. Confirmation perfects our baptism and brings us the graces of the Holy Spirit that were granted to the Apostles on Pentecost Sunday.

**The Sacrament of Eucharist:** While Catholics in the West today normally make their First Communion before they receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, the Sacrament of Eucharist, the reception of Christ's Body and Blood, was historically the third of the three sacraments of initiation. This sacrament is the source of great graces that sanctify us and help us grow in the likeness of Jesus Christ.

## **Sacraments of Healing: Penance, Anointing of the Sick**

**The Sacrament of Penance:** The Sacrament of Penance is one of the least understood, and least utilized, sacraments in the Catholic Church. In reconciling us to God, it is a great source of grace, and Catholics are encouraged to take advantage of it often, even if they are not aware of having committed a mortal sin.

**The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick:** Traditionally referred to as Extreme Unction or Last Rites, the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is administered both to the dying and to those who are gravely ill or are about to undergo a serious operation, for the recovery of their health and for spiritual strength.

## **Sacraments at the Service of Communion: Matrimony, Holy Orders**

**The Sacrament of Matrimony:** Marriage, a lifelong union between a man and a woman for procreation and mutual support, is a natural institution, but it is also one of the seven sacraments of the Catholic Church. It reflects the union of Jesus Christ and His Church.

**The Sacrament of Holy Orders:** The Sacrament of Holy Orders is the continuation of Christ's priesthood, which He bestowed upon His Apostles. There are three levels to this sacrament: the episcopate, the priesthood, and the diaconate.

## **VIDEO-- BAPTISM: ONE 'OHANA**

*Note: The video is divided into six segments. To assist the facilitator in preparing for and engaging participants in lively conversation, discussion questions are provided for use after segments 2 – 6. The list of possible responses are provided to assist the facilitator in guiding the group's discussions.*

### **Show Video segments 1 & 2: *Introduction and We Are One Body***

1. Based on the video segment, how is God reflected in the beauty and diversity of Hawaii and its people? How is God's beauty and diversity reflected in your child? In your family?

- *Diversity goes beyond race.*
- *We are made in the image and likeness of God.*
- *We are all equal in the eyes of God.*

2. In Hawaii we are very familiar with the concept and importance of 'ohana (family). How does your family (and extended family) stay connected?
  - *Church, prayer, story-telling, meals, parties, calls, texts, trips, etc. Through these we experience acceptance, love, a sense of belonging/identity.*
  
3. As Catholic Christians, we are also 'ohana – members of the Body of Christ, which is the Church. What are ways in which we support, encourage, and "stay connected" to one another as the family of God?
  - *Sunday and daily Masses, celebration of the Sacraments.*
  - *Participation in Church ministries, joining church activities and organizations.*
  - *Visiting the sick members of the parish, praying for one another, celebrating anniversaries, joining bereavement sessions, etc.*
  - *Support each other in upholding Christian morals and ethics at home, in the work place, in public.*
  
4. What does it mean to "belong to" or "be claimed" in the name of Jesus Christ? To belong to the Church?
  - *Our lives are no longer our own – we are open to God's intentions for us.*
  - *To belong means to move from personal to communal faith.*
  - *We are the Church wherever we are and in all we do.*
  - *We are privileged to be members of the Body of Christ. We also accept the responsibilities associated with this membership.*
  - *As Church, we are to be Christ to others.*
  - *The Church is like a mother that takes care of her children.*

**Show Video Segment 3: Sacrament of Faith**

1. Why do you wish to have your child baptized? What do we gain from baptism?
  - *Sanctifying grace.*
  - *We become children of God.*
  - *Imprints on souls an indelible character that marks us for Christ.*

- *Remove original and personal sin, become a member of the Church.*
  - *My child will enjoy what we enjoy as Catholics, receiving the other Sacraments.*
  - *Through baptism we are saved.*
  - *My child will grow up knowing and loving Christ.*
  - *My child will have a godparent who can help in raising him/her up into a good Catholic.*
  - *Prayer and support of the worshipping community.*
2. We belong to God, who is the perfect community of love: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in whose name we are baptized. This is our faith. How is your family a reflection of that "perfect community of love"? How will your family continue to celebrate the faith as your child grows?

*As a family, we:*

- *instill in our children love of God and love of others by modeling to our children how to love;*
- *as husband and wife (or as single parent) strive to become role models of Christian virtues that help promote unity in the family and have established healthy ways of dealing with our conflicts;*
- *first experience being loved and learn how to love;*
- *are present to one another;*
- *listen to and spend time with our spouse, family – put away distractions;*
- *realize that the quality of our time together is more important than quantity;*
- *discern what it is that our family really needs versus wants;*
- *give thanks to God for our blessings;*
- *teach our children respect, honesty and truthfulness, and to ask for forgiveness;*
- *bring our children to Church every Sunday and give them Catholic education;*
- *make Christmas a time to reflect on God's great love of giving His Son to us;*
- *read the Sunday Gospel and after Mass talk about the homily;*
- *commit to raising our child in an atmosphere of service both at home and in the community.*

3. Why is Baptism considered to be a sacrament of initiation?

- *The foundational sacrament and the pre-requisite of all the sacraments.*
- *At Baptism we begin a new life in Christ; Christ becomes our Lord and we are his followers.*
- *Baptism is the entrance into Christ's Church.*
- *At Baptism we became Christians.*

**Video Segment 4: Symbols**

1. Why is the use of water significant in baptism?

- *It is cleansing and life giving.*
- *It is a symbol for life and also a destructive character; it can make the face of the earth new. In this sense it symbolizes conversion where our old self is destroyed and we put on the new self that is Christ.*

2. How is the baptismal font both a tomb and a womb?

- *When we are immersed in the waters of baptism, we die to Christ and are born to new life.*
- *This is where the water destroys our "old self" and a "new self" is replaced – the self that is empowered with Christ's characters.*

3. How is light a symbol of baptism?

- *It symbolizes the light and life of Christ.*
- *Light helps us see the way. As Christians we no longer walk in the darkness because Christ is our light.*
- *Christ is the light of the world. In baptism we are made light to one another as well as to those who are not baptized so that Christ may be known.*

4. What is the role of sacred oil in baptism?

- *It symbolizes being strengthened for our journey of faith and our participation in the kingship of Jesus and his priesthood*
- *Like runners who massage their bodies with oil before running, we are anointed with oil at baptism to strengthen us as we take on our journey of faith.*

5. What is the role of the community?

- *Represents the whole church*
- *The community welcomes us to the family of God. We are assured that we are not alone.*
- *The community represents, though in an imperfect way, the divine community of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and together we strive to perfect our charity for one another through God's grace.*
- *The community gives us support and shows us God's love and fidelity.*
- *We can never become disciples of Jesus unless we live in community. This is the reason why Jesus founded the Church which began with the small band of apostles.*

6. Why is white worn at baptism?

- *White symbolizes new life in Christ*
- *Usually white connotes purity. At Baptism we are purified from Original Sin and all actual sins we might have committed (for adult Baptism).*
- *When Jesus was transfigured at Mt. Tabor, the three apostles with him saw his clothes become white as snow. This was manifestation of his glory. The baptized shares in that glory.*
- *At the end of time, those who carry on the journey of faith and endure the challenges along the way will be clothed in white.*

**Video Segment 5: Role of Godparents**

1. What role did godparents play in your life?

- *Role model for Christian living.*
- *Support system for parents to raise their child in faith.*

2. As a godparent you will model what it means to live as a Catholic Christian. This is a privilege that offers you a mutually enriching spiritual relationship. What are a few ways that you can nurture this spiritual relationship with your godchild?

- *Celebrate baptism day each year with call or card.*
- *Model participation in the life of the Church (attend Mass regularly, be involved in preparation for the Sacraments, etc.)*
- *Encourage consistent life of faith, offer support to parents.*
- *Being a role model of Christian living, etc.*
- *In some cultures, tending to temporal needs of the child in the event the parents are unable to do so.*

## **Video Segment 6: Witness to Jesus**

### **1. How did Saints Damien and Marianne witness to Jesus?**

- *Through living their baptism promise to love God and serve others.*

*They also:*

- *were open to and lovingly accepted God's call to the vocation of the priesthood and religious life;*
- *served the poor and the neglected, which was what Jesus wants us to do;*
- *shared their faith with others;*
- *taught people how to pray; to enter into a relationship with God;*
- *balanced the temporal and spiritual needs of the community.*

### **2. How do we attract others to the faith by witnessing to Jesus?**

*We are to:*

- *treat each other with respect and "have love for one another" (Jn 13:35);*
- *serve those in need in our community;*
- *live a life of holiness: joy vs. happiness.*

### **3. Parents are the primary educators in the faith formation of their children. How can your life be a "Witness to Jesus" for the spiritual growth of your child?**

- *Personal and family prayer is a regular practice.*
- *I am attentive to my own spiritual life, knowing that I cannot give what I do not have.*
- *I treat my spouse and child with respect and ask for respect in return.*
- *We attend Sunday Mass as a family.*
- *We volunteer for service in the school, church, community.*
- *We share meals together.*
- *I model Christian living – I try to make good moral and ethical decisions, show respect for others in action and language, exercise responsible stewardship.*
- *My child is enrolled in the parish religious education program or in a Catholic school.*

## **CLOSING:**

### **PARENT'S PRAYER**

God, our Creator and loving parent, thank you for the gift of life.  
Cherish me as your child, and fill my life with the creative power of your love.

Jesus, our savior and brother, thank you for showing me the way of love.  
Be with me as I try to be like you - patient, supportive and gentle with my child.  
Let me share again the delight and wonder of childhood, of discovering your face  
in the beauty that surrounds us:  
in the vivid colors of the rainbow,  
in the gentle ocean waves,  
in the comfort of family and friends.

Spirit of God, our constant friend and guide, thank you for leading me in the way  
of faith.  
Help me to show my child the loving face of God during our life together.  
Let me bring healing in times of pain and doubt.  
Help me care for my child materially and spiritually,  
and let us always be companions and believers together.

God – Creator, Savior and Spirit, you have trusted me with my child's life.  
Help us grow together in all that is good and right.  
Be with us in times of joy and in moments of pain.  
Let us know that you are there for us, even when we seem to lose sight of you.  
Please be light and warmth in our home and in our hearts. Amen.

**Additional resources and activities are available through the Office of  
Religious Education at [www.catholicahawaii.org](http://www.catholicahawaii.org)**