

UNIT I

BAPTISM AND CHRISMATION

Sacraments of Entrance into the Church

I. OUR LIFE IN THE CHURCH

Have you ever seen your baptismal certificate? It contains some very important information about you. It tells how and when you became a member of God's family — the Church — how you became an important part of its life.

Most of us do not remember our own baptisms because we were baptized when we were tiny babies. But we do have a record, or can easily obtain one, which gives us the necessary facts about our entrance into the Church. This record is our **Baptismal Certificate**. It looks something like the one on the right side of this page. Fill out as much of this record as you can. What you do not know, try to find out at home or from the parish church in which you were baptized.

Your baptism was a big event for you, for your parents and family, and for the whole Church. Everyone was very excited on the day your godparents brought you to the Church. Maybe you have a picture of yourself that someone took on that day. If you do, you may want to paste it here.



Certificate of Baptism

*In the Name of the Father, and of
the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*

Amen.

This is to Certify that

child of _____

and _____

who was born on the _____ day

of _____, 19____, in the city

of _____, has re-

ceived the Holy Sacraments of

Baptism and Chrismation

on the _____ day of _____, 19____, in

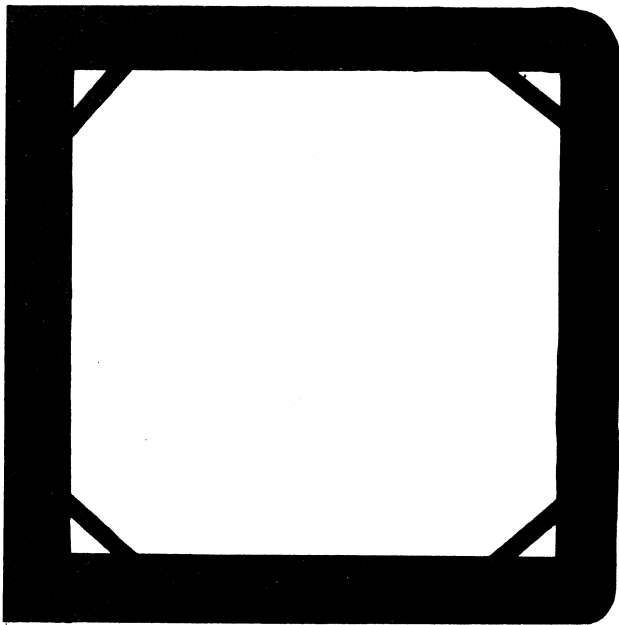
the Church of _____

in the city of _____

from the Rev. Fr. _____

and witnessed by the Sponsors:

*and is hereby received as a Christian
into the Communion of the One, Holy,
Catholic and Apostolic Church.*



ber of a new and larger family. You were now to be part of God's Family in the Church.

This was your first step into the Church. Together with your godparents, who spoke for you on that day, you came to be with God. With the sign of the Cross, the priest gave to you the mark of all people who believe in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The Cross is still the sign that we use today to show our faith in God. List here some of the ways in which the Cross is shown or used in the Church and in our lives as Christians.

Let's try to look back to see what really happened to you on the day of your baptism. Let's go back to that day in the month of 19.....

You were the center of attention as your family and friends prepared to bring you to the Church. Special clothes were made or bought for you. Especially important was the white gown that would be placed on you at your baptism. As soon as everyone was ready, your godparents brought you to the Church, where your priest, Father met you at the door.

As soon as everyone was in the Church, the priest came to you at the entrance of the Church and placed his hand on your head. He breathed on you and made the sign of the Cross over you three times. When he did this, he let everyone know that you would especially **belong to God** all of your life.

The priest let everyone know that you had come to the Church to become a mem-



This
Child
Belongs
To God.