

10. OUR LIFE IN THIS WORLD

A special service took place after you were baptized and chrismated. This service sometimes follows immediately after Chrismation or after you have received Holy Communion for the first time. Three things happen in this final short service to remind us that these signs of our baptism and new life in Christ must become real parts of our lives.

First, the priest asked you and your sponsors to bow your heads as a sign of your willingness to obey God. He prayed to God that you would win the fight over evil. But since Jesus Christ is the one who won the real victory over evil and death, we know we must obey Him and live as He taught us in order that we may win that fight ourselves.

Secondly, the priest took a sponge and washed off the Holy Chrism. As he did it, he said:

"You are baptized.

You are illumined.

You have received anointment with the holy Chrism.

You are sanctified.

You are washed.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Find these words in the Bible and write them here. (I Corinthians 6:11)



The seal of the Holy Spirit that we receive from God lasts forever. In some ways, it is like a "brand," a mark that always identifies us. This seal reminds us and others that we are Christians — we bear the name of Jesus Christ and the mark of the Holy Spirit. It means that we must bear witness to God; we must be His people in the world, and the gift of the Holy Spirit helps us to do God's work in the world.

But in order to do God's work in the world, it shouldn't be necessary to wear a mark that easily identifies us as Christians. People should know we are God's people by the way we behave. The Chrism, the sign that we are marked by God, is washed off so that we can really begin to **be Christians** by the way we think and live and act. Only if we treat each other with love as real brothers and sisters will other people really believe that we are part of God's family, brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ. The gift of the Holy Spirit is still with us for it is much more than a sign — it is God's life working in us, strengthening us and helping us to be holy.

Finally, the priest cut a few pieces of hair from your head. He prayed to God remembering that it is God who gave you your life, your body, and especially your mind. He then offered these few pieces of hair to remind all of us that you and your sponsors were willing to offer your whole life to God. In the same way, a person who decides to offer his life to God as a monk does so by letting the abbot or bishop cut some hair from his head as a sign of his service and obedience to God forever.

Add review cards to your set showing the washing off of the Chrism and the cutting of your hair.



Perhaps when you were baptized, you didn't even have much hair on your head — so little, in fact, that it was difficult for the priest to find anything to offer to God for you. But even if it was only a little piece of hair or fuzz that was given to God, it was enough to show that you were willing to dedicate your life to God. By this sign you promised to serve and obey God forever. Your whole life now will be a life of offering yourself — all your words, thoughts, and actions — to God.