

6. THE ROBE OF HOLINESS

Let's review what happened to you when you were brought to the Church to be baptized. For each statement given, write, in your own words, the meaning of what happened to you.

1. The priest put his hand on my head.

2. He gave me the mark or sign that showed I belonged to God.

3. I was turned away from the Altar and my godparents even spit towards the door.

4. My godparents turned me towards the Altar and made a pledge for me.

5. The priest gave me the sign of joy, health, and gladness.

6. The priest put me into the water and then raised me up.

As soon as the priest brought you out of the water, a reader read Psalm 32, which begins with the words:

"Blessed is he whose unrighteousness is forgiven . . ."

and ends by saying:

**"Be glad in the Lord and rejoice
O righteous,
and shout for joy all you upright in heart."**

God forgives our sins. He gives us new life in baptism. We are glad and we rejoice in the Lord!

Now the priest gave you your baptismal garment, a beautiful white robe. This white robe is a reminder to you throughout your whole life that you have been given a new life in Jesus Christ. It is now up to you to keep your life clean and pure, to keep your mind, your soul, and your body free from all bad things.

As your robe was placed on you, the priest prayed to God for you saying:

*"Grant unto thy servant
the seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit
and participation of the Holy Body and
the precious Blood of thy Christ.*

*Keep him in thy holiness;
Confirm him in the Orthodox Faith;
Deliver him from the Evil One."*

*That he may please thee in every deed and
word, and may be a child and heir of thy
heavenly kingdom."*

The first part of this prayer tells us of the gifts we receive from God when we become members of His Church. It points to the next two sacraments that you received when you

entered the Church. Underline the words that ask God to grant you the **Sacraments of Holy Chrismation** and **Holy Communion**.

Read carefully the next parts of the prayer. What do these words say to you about how you should live everyday? In your own words, rewrite the prayer as **you** would ask God for these things now.

