

NOTES ON THE LITURGY

Office of Divine Worship - Archdiocese of Newark

Baptismal Formula Questions

Response to Questions Regarding Baptismal Formulas

CONGREGATION FOR THE DOCTRINE OF THE FAITH RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS PROPOSED

on the validity of Baptism conferred with the formulas

“I baptize you in the name of the Creator,
and of the Redeemer, and of the Sanctifier”
and “I baptize you in the name of the Creator,
and of the Liberator, and of the Sustainer.”

QUESTIONS

First question: Whether the Baptism conferred with the formulas “I baptize you in the name of the Creator, and of the Redeemer, and of the Sanctifier” and “I baptize you in the name of the Creator, and of the Liberator, and of the Sustainer” is valid?

Second question: Whether the persons baptized with those formulas have to be baptized in *forma absoluta*?

RESPONSES

To the first question: Negative.

To the second question: Affirmative.

The Supreme Pontiff Benedict XVI, at the Audience granted to the undersigned Cardinal Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, approved these Responses, adopted in the Ordinary Session of the Congregation, and ordered their publication.

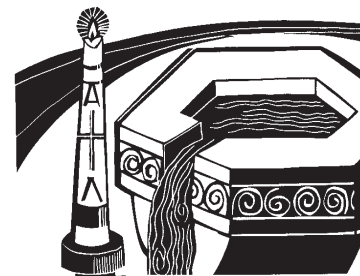
Rome, from the Offices of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, February 1, 2008.

William Cardinal Levada

Baptismal Formula

The response to the questions concerning baptismal formulas given by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith clearly indicates that no substitutions may be made to the words of the baptismal formula. In fact, to do so invalidates the sacrament, and the person must be baptized according to the proper formula.

This would be true of anyone (infant, child or adult) being baptized in the Catholic Church.



Valid Baptismal Formula

The baptismal formula approved for use in the English language is found in the 1970 *Rite of Baptism for Children* (see 60), and in the 1988 *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* (see 226):

N., I BAPTIZE YOU IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER,
He immerses the candidate the first time.
AND OF THE SON,
He immerses the candidate the second time.
AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.
He immerses the candidate the third time.

The **same** priest (or deacon) who speaks the formula also immerses the person or pours the water over the person being baptized.