

**Subject: Christening Ceremony**  
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## GENERIC CHRISTENING CEREMONY

*Parents' names* bring this child here to declare before this gathering their joy on *Name's* birth and their wish that you share in that joy

They are thrilled at his/her safe arrival into this world and they want you to help them welcome him/her into their wider family into the community of their friends and into the world.

Along with their happiness *parents' names* also have a sense of responsibility—even a sense of awe.

This welcome ceremony for *Name* is a time to mark that sense of responsibility and awe to remind *parents' names* how much of their lives must now be devoted to caring for *Name* to guiding him/her and to nurturing him/her.

It is also a time to remind *the baby's older brothers and sisters* of their responsibilities to be kind and helpful to their new baby brother or sister and the important role they will have throughout the whole of *name's* life.

And it is a time for us to offer *parents' and brothers' and sisters' names* our support in those tasks. Watching the development of a child can be an experience of great happiness from the helplessness of babyhood through his/her years as a toddler a schoolboy/girl and an adolescent until he/she reaches maturity.

Tomorrow's world is shaped by the shaping of our children in our homes It is the treatment we give our children which determines largely whether they will grow to contribute to this world or to be a drain on it.

So as they make a home for *Name* *parents' names* have a responsibility to the future .

Today, this gathering declares its trust in *parents' names* in making the conditions for *Name's* growth.

In *Name* we have faith for a new generation with new ways of seeing and thinking. For it is in the life of each new child like *Name* that our hopes and aspirations can be renewed. We declare our hope in *Name* who is a part of the future of our world.

*Parents' names* let us name your child. Together with me place a hand on the child and say *Repeating after the celebrant*  
We name you *Child's full name*. We promise our love, unconditionally and our best efforts to be good parents.

Parenthood is an awesome responsibility and it is a responsibility which cannot easily be shared. But it is responsibility that can be lightened if there are other people who stand there in support . Just as *parents' names* wish you all here to share their joy, so they hope you also have a sense of sharing their responsibility.

There is one thing that we are certain of today: The more this child is loved the more *s/he* will grow as a human being, and the more *s/he* is loved the more *s/he* will *himself/herself* have love to give to others.

And there is another thing: The more people this child feels connected to, the more people this child can ask questions of, the more people this child feels *s/he* can trust, the richer *his/her* growth will be. So your presence here today is appreciated as your presence in *Name's* life in the future will be appreciated - your interest and your involvement in *his/her* life as *s/he* grows to maturity. It is an important tradition in our culture that at the time a child is formally named and welcomed into the community some other adults agree to take special responsibilities for him/her alongside *his/her* parents.

So today we will appoint two mentors for *Name* chosen by *his/her* parents—mentors who undertake a special responsibility for *his/her* welfare. I now ask the mentors: Do [*names of mentors*] accept this serious responsibility? We do. Then with me touch this child, and say

*[Repeating after the celebrant]*

*[Full name of child]* we solemnly swear to take a special and lifelong interest in your welfare and to offer you friendship, counsel, and support.

Parents and sworn mentors have special responsibilities. But we all feel a responsibility, and we all hope for every happiness in this child's life. So could we all together say these lines together? Will you all repeat after me? *[Repeating after the celebrant]* We wish you long life and happiness. We trust you will be kind and compassionate. May you have success and good fortune. and may your life be one of love

*[An appropriate reading may be inserted here]* It is the responsibility of us all to encourage *Name* most importantly to encourage *him/her* by example. In particular we wish to encourage the virtues that all people of good will agree are right - integrity, honesty, fairness, and concern.

For the gift of childhood whose innocence and laughter keep the world young we all rejoice and give thanks.

May this sweet life which we have accepted into our community of ideals and friendship receive abundantly the blessings of health, love, knowledge and wisdom, and in its turn give back richly to the common heritage that endures from generation to generation.

*Child's full name*, you have been named by your family and friends, your mentors have been appointed. We welcome you into this community.

Let us now drink a toast: To *Name*!