

Subject: Baby Dedication Ceremony
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Outline Format – BABY DEDICATION CEREMONY

DEDICATION OF PARENTS

1. Baptism

a. old beliefs - born bad; need to make-over, make acceptable; water symbol of renewal, spiritual consciousness, presence of Truth - hence use of water in rite.

b. new beliefs- today know born of God, already perfect; no need to make acceptable to a higher power because that Power created us in Its image; we are NOW the nature or the children of God; most especially we see in babies; ANY parent knows their child is wonderful!

c. for us today? - impossible to improve on perfection; more God-like to recognize that perfection; that is the purpose of today: to recognize that perfection and a public Commitment on the part of the parents to teach the presence of that perfection to their child.

2. GIBRAN on children, p.17 [invite parents to stage]

3. Commitment of parents:

This is your public commitment, before your family and friends, to raise this child in the distinct awareness of his/her own goodness; to expect Good in his/her life, and to believe the best about him/herself . To that end, (parent's names), will you teach (child's name) the Truth of his/her being so that from the very first (s)he may realize his/her unity with God? (WE WILL)

Knowing that we learn better from example, will you conduct your own lives so that not only by word, but by example (s)he may learn to live joyously, creatively and Harmoniously. Will you do this to the best of your ability? (WE WILL)

4. Sponsors - if sponsors/godparents are present... (Names), you have heard (parents' names) promise to serve as good examples to (baby's name). Also, they have promised to honor this new life by believing the best about him and recognizing the Divinity in and as him/her. If the time should come when you need to stand for them, do you join them in the spirit of their vows by claiming the same for yourselves. (We do) .

5. Ritual

a. water - symbol of the presence of Truth, within all, especially within (baby's name)

b. rose - purity; certainly there is nothing purer to us than a baby.

c. (baby's full name), as I touch your forehead with the rose and water, it serves as a visual symbol for all of us of the Truth of your being, that you are the Presence of God. I claim for you the unlimited capacity to see as God sees, the ability to creatively express the joy of your being, and the wisdom to listen to the inner urgings of your heart and follow them.

d. For you, (parent's names), I claim continued growth in your awareness of your own Divinity, so that your home is a place of strength, serenity, and love.

6. Closing Prayer - a dedication