

# Blessing of a Baptistry or a New Baptismal Font

From the *Book of Blessings*, 1989

Lord God,  
Creator of the world and Father of all who are born into it,  
it is right that we should give you praise  
for allowing us to open this **saving font** through the liturgy of your Church.  
Here the **door** is reopened to the life of the spirit  
and the **gateway** to the Church is swung wide  
to those against whom the gates of paradise were shut.  
This **pool** is opened and in it the newness of its pure waters  
will again make **clean** and spotless those who were stained by the old ways of sin.  
A new **torrent** is released  
whose **gushing waters sweep away** sin and bring new virtue to life.  
A **stream of living water**, coming from Christ's side, now flows  
and those who **drink** this water will be brought to eternal life.  
Over this font the lamp of faith spreads the holy light  
that banishes darkness from the mind  
and fills those who are reborn here with heavenly gifts.  
Those who profess their faith at this font  
are **plunged beneath the waters** and joined to Christ's death,  
so that they may rise with him to newness of life.

Lord,  
we ask you to send the life-giving presence of your Spirit upon this font,  
placed here as the source of new life for your people.  
The power of the Spirit made the Virgin Mary the mother of your Son;  
send forth the power of the same Spirit,  
so that your Church may present you with countless new sons and daughters  
and bring forth new citizens of heaven.

Grant, O Lord, that the people who are reborn from this font  
may *fulfill in their actions* what they pledge by their faith  
and *show by their lives* what they begin by the power of your grace.  
Let the people of different nations and conditions  
who *come forth as one* from these waters of rebirth  
*show by their love* that they are *brothers and sisters*  
and *by their concord* that they are *citizens* of the one kingdom.  
Make them into *true sons and daughters*  
who *reflect their Father's goodness*,  
*disciples who are faithful* to the teaching of their one Master,  
*temples* in whom the voice of the Spirit resounds.  
Grant that they may be *witnesses* to the Gospel.  
*doers* of the works of holiness.  
Enable them to *fill with the Spirit of Christ*  
the earthly city where they live,  
until they are welcomed home in the heavenly Jerusalem.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

## **Blessing of Water • Easter Vigil**

From the *Roman Missal*, 2011

Father, you give us grace through sacramental signs,  
which tell us of the wonders of your unseen power.

In baptism we use your gift of water,  
which you have made a rich symbol of the grace you give us in this sacrament.

At the very dawn of creation your Spirit breathed on the waters,  
making them the wellspring of all holiness.

The waters of the great flood you made a sign of the waters of baptism,  
that make an end to sin and a new beginning of goodness.

Through the waters of the Red Sea you led Israel out of slavery,  
to be an image of God's holy people, set free from sin by baptism.

In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit.

Your Son willed that water and blood should flow from his side as he hung upon the cross.

After his resurrection he told his disciples:

“Go out and teach all nations,  
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the son and of the Holy Spirit.”

Father, look now with love upon your Church,  
and unseal for her the fountain of baptism.

By the power of the Spirit,  
give to the water of this font the grace of your Son,  
so that in the sacrament of baptism  
all those whom you have created in your likeness may be cleansed from sin  
and rise to a new birth of innocence by water and the Holy Spirit.

*(The paschal candle may be lowered into the font, once or three times.)*

We ask you, Father, with your Son  
to send the Holy Spirit upon the waters of this font.  
May all who are buried with Christ in the death of baptism  
rise also with him to newness of life.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.