

Blessing of a Baptistry

Book of Blessings, 1989 / Chapter 31

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.