

Name _____ Date _____

Handout 1-A

The Rite of Baptism and the Universal Call to Holiness

Your call to holiness is rooted in your Baptism! As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states, “Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit” (1213).

Listed in the left-hand column below are some elements of the baptismal rite: signs, symbols, prayers, and ritual actions. Work with your partner to consider what these elements teach us about holiness and, in particular, about the universal call to holiness: that is, the idea that *all* of us are called to live the Gospel message; to be faithful to God in both word and deed; and to be people of prayer, sacrifice, and service. Write your thoughts in the blank space provided.

Element of the Rite of Baptism	What does this element teach us about holiness, and, in particular, about the universal call to holiness?
Tracing the Sign of the Cross on the forehead	
Immersion in water (or pouring of water)	
The baptismal formula: “I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”	
Anointing with chrism (sacred, fragrant oil)	

<p style="text-align: center;">Element of the Rite of Baptism</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">What does this element teach us about holiness, and, in particular, about the universal call to holiness?</p>
<p>Prayer that accompanies the anointing with chrism: “The God of power and Father of our Lord, Jesus Christ, has freed you from sin and brought you to new life through water and the Holy Spirit. He now anoints you with the chrism of salvation, so that, united with his people, you may remain forever a member of Christ who is Priest, Prophet, and King.”</p>	
<p>Clothing with the white garment</p>	
<p>Prayer that accompanies the clothing with white garment: “You have become a new creation, and have clothed yourself in Christ. See in this white garment the outward sign of your Christian dignity. With your family and friends to help you by word and example, bring that dignity unstained into the everlasting life of heaven.”</p>	
<p>Lighting of the baptismal candle</p>	
<p>Prayer that accompanies the lighting of the candle: “Parents and godparents, this light is entrusted to you to be kept burning brightly. This child of yours has been enlightened by Christ. He/she is to always walk as a child of the light. May he/she keep the flame of faith alive in his/her heart. When the Lord comes, may he/she go out to meet him with all the saints in the heavenly kingdom.”</p>	