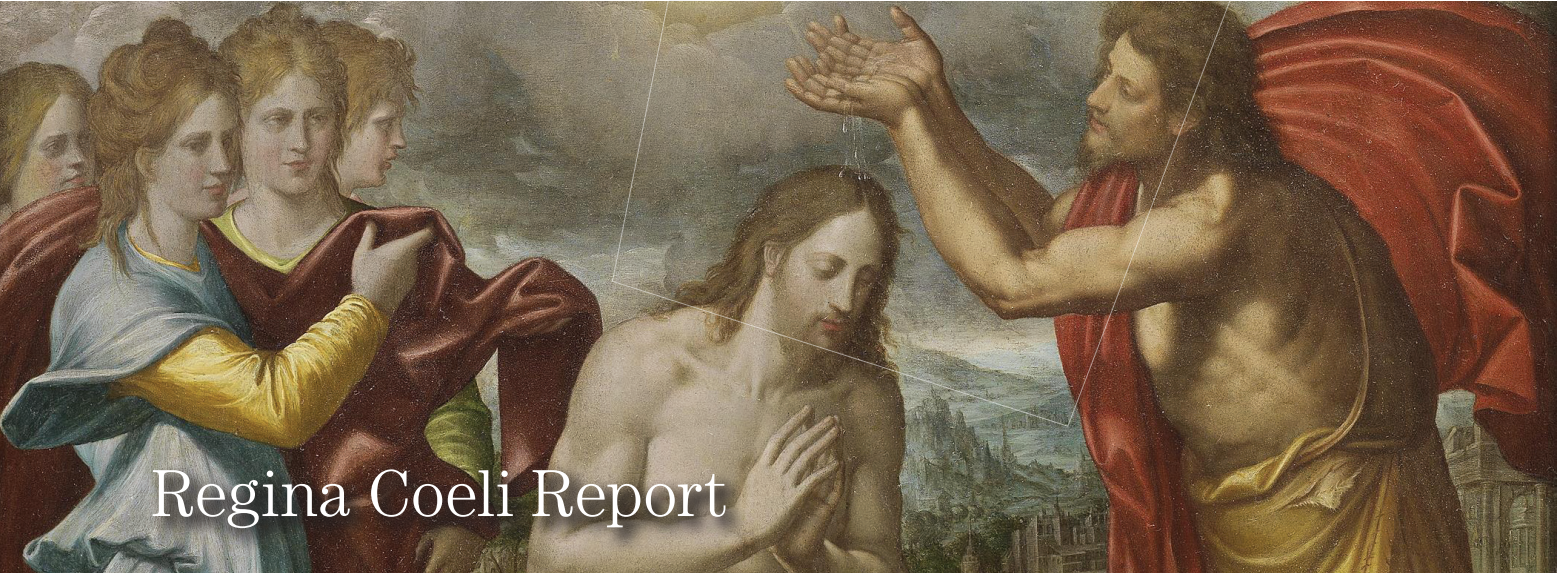




SSPX



Regina Coeli Report

Number 299 April - May 2021 ∴

The Meaning and Importance of Baptism

“What do you ask of the Church of God?” “Faith.”
 “What does faith provide you?” “Eternal life.”

These first words of the ritual of baptism cut deep into the heart of human destiny. Life is not worth living which does not promise an eternal felicity. And there can be no eternal life without the true faith in the true God, who is Trinity, and who sent the Word to become flesh.

We are familiar with the simple baptism of infants. However, the full rite can be witnessed only during adult baptisms. The complex rite involves three exorcisms along with the *Ephphatha*, symbolizing the opening of ears and mouth of the neophyte. Then come repeated inquiries and testing of the intention and faith, before being introduced into the church where the candidate's first action is

to prostrate in God's presence prior to approaching the baptistery. In this adult baptism, one can have a little idea of the original lengthy 40 days of Lenten preparation formerly needed to shed the old man and revest the new man “created in justice and holiness of truth.”

Perhaps the best way to get the feel of the original ceremonies is to be privileged to attend the rite for adult baptism at the Easter Vigil, which is pregnant with baptismal preparations: the Old Testament prophecies, the confecting of the baptismal water with the sacred oils from the previous chrismal Mass, and the procession to the baptistery. May this issue offer you a glimpse of these liturgical riches through the explanation of the Easter Vigil and some comments by neophytes in the faith.

Letter from the District Superior



Dear Friends,

In our northern hemisphere, Eastertide coincides with spring and infuses hope and joy in our souls along with nature budding everywhere. Symbols of Christ's Resurrection are seen through God's marvelous creation. Sadly, our society is becoming more worldly, our leaders are blind, and our country is leaderless. People are sinking into gross materialism and in despair of true happiness.

Yet, God's action can be felt in the spiritual rejuvenation of souls struck by grace against all odds. Can we not exclaim our surprise about these miracles of grace, with the words of the scientist looking at the planets: "*E pur si muove*"—and yet it moves"? Yes, the hand of God is not shortened. The rays of grace and the light of faith are felt in the oddest situations. Men of good will are still reacting healthily and harness themselves to side with God in the arena of a fallen world.

Our day-to-day life with its measure of monotony and humble deeds is a God-given opportunity to grow in virtue: the virtue of peaceful patience and that of joyful fidelity. In this way should we ever more know, love, and serve our divine Master, lulled by the ebb and flow of the liturgical cycle of Easter leading up to the time after Pentecost, a symbol of the church on earth, fighting for God's rights.

The present *Report* provides some photos of the religious, cultural, and artistic activities of the U.S. District, as well as the latest developments of our apostolate. This is just the tip of the iceberg of the momentous activities performed daily by our dedicated team of priests, religious, and teachers. Yet, we should not forget the largely anonymous army of lay workers in all fields of activity without whom our work would soon be paralyzed and come to a halt. Let them all, visible and invisible, Cyreneans and guardian angels, be warmly thanked, and we wish them all many rewards from God's boundless generosity.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "John D. Fullerton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Fr. John Fullerton



Baptism and the Easter Vigil

The baptism of her children and thus their incorporation into the Mystical Body of Christ is a matter of prime importance in the life and history of our Holy Mother the Church. We find a myriad treatises and expositions of sacred doctrine by the Fathers of the Church on precisely this topic. The liturgical life of the Church is deeply imbued, in text and symbol, by the accompaniment of the catechumens—those preparing to convert to the Faith—to the sacred font, and of the duty and joy of the faithful in conserving the grace received in their own baptism. This is particularly evident during the liturgical seasons of Lent and Eastertide.

While the life of the early centuries of the Church was deeply marked by the conversion of pagans, and thus the presence of catechumens preparing for and receiving baptism, we are certainly more familiar in our own age with the baptism of the children of Catholic parents. However, it does not take much imagination to see how the impressive and solemn rites of the early centuries are placed right before our eyes during Holy Week, as well as in the baptismal rite of infants.

Throughout the forty days of Lent, the catechumens prepared themselves to receive the light of Faith. That is why the Lenten texts of the Mass are so full of imagery instructive to them (and to us). We find Naaman the Syrian cleansed of leprosy by the sevenfold bath, Moses receiving the Ten Commandments, water gushing from the rock struck by Moses, the Samaritan woman at the well, the bath of Susanna, and so on.



The Easter Vigil opens with the blessing of the new fire and then of the Paschal Candle, with the singing of the *Exultet*. Afterwards, the immediate preparation of the catechumens begins. The series of prophecies give us but a glimpse of the providential preparation God in His mercy laid out over many centuries for the holy mysteries we are about to witness: the Creation, the Exodus, the Temple, and the Law. After the prophecies, the procession is formed whereby the Paschal Candle, like the pillar of fire which led the Israelites through the parted waters of the sea, leads

A baptism performed at the Easter Vigil at St. Vincent de Paul Church, Kansas City, MO in 2020.

the clergy and catechumens to the baptistery. The ancient baptisteries were a reservoir of baptismal water. Our fonts are in fact elevated, miniature versions of the ancient baptismal basins.

At the baptistery, the bishop solicits the triple renunciation of Satan, his works, and his pomps from the catechumens. They are anointed on the breast and back with the Oil of Catechumens. They then enter the baptismal basin and the bishop asks them three times to profess their faith according to the articles of the Apostle's Creed, thus "returning" the Creed they had been taught (*redditio symboli*). Then they enter the baptismal basin, and with a hand held upon them, they are baptized by the three-fold implementation of the baptismal water. Emerging from the basin, they are anointed on the head with Holy Chrism by a priest. They are given a white garment by the bishop and a candle. Then, having gone to change into the garment, they reassemble in the attached chapel of the baptistery where the bishop confers upon them the Sacrament of Confirmation, once again with Holy Chrism. In connection with all of these ceremonies, we find also the singing of Psalm 41: As the hart panteth after the fountains of water... It is, of course, the beautiful *Sicut Cervus*.

Imbued with the Catholic Faith, the newly baptized, called neophytes, are led in solemn procession back to the basilica, once again accompanied by the Litanies, which lead into the Mass itself. The neophytes take part in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass—the Mass of the Faithful and no longer just the Mass of the Catechumens—for the first time. There they receive their First Holy Communion, after which three particular and symbolic refreshments are given to them to drink: water, milk sweetened with honey (*lac et mel*), and wine, in the name of the Holy Trinity and as a sign of their entrance into the land of milk and honey which is the Church. The neophytes wear



A family enters the church through the Sacrament of Baptism at the 2019 Easter Vigil in Kansas City, MO.



their white garments during the entire octave, and out of respect for the laver of regeneration, they do not bathe nor go barefoot until Low Sunday.

In our own day, these identical baptismal ceremonies are collected together in the rite for the baptism of infants. In the vestibule of the church the preparatory ceremonies take place: the *exsufflatio*, the tracing of the crosses on the infant/convert, the imposition of hands with two of the prayers, the conferral of blessed salt, and two of the three exorcisms, which harken back to the three scrutinies. Entering the church, the convert or godparents recite the *Credo* and *Pater* while the priest recites them in Latin; we see here the *traditio symboli*. Before the baptistery, the preparation is

Although not an adult baptism, this was the first quadruple baptism performed by Fr. Emily! A set of twin girls and two other infants not related to one another were baptized recently at Our Lady of Sorrows Chapel in Crookston, MN.

In addition, there are 5 or 6 more Baptisms to be done in this fruitful parish before the end of this year.



completed with the third exorcism, the *ephphatha*, the renunciation of Satan, and the anointing with the Oil of Catechumens. The convert or infant enters the baptistery proper, makes his profession of faith (*redditio symboli*), whether on his own or through his godparents, and is baptized, as the godparents hold him or lay their hands on him. He is anointed on the crown of the head with Holy Chrism by the priest and is given a white garment and a candle.

Whether or not baptisms take place at the Easter Vigil in one's parish, we all have the occasion to participate in the larger complex of ancient ceremonies of the Vigil on the night of Holy Saturday.

From the new fire, the Paschal Candle and the *Exultet*, the proph-

ecies and tracts, the *Sicut Cervus*, the blessing of the font, the Litanies and the Mass: the ancient rites are our own. Many of the particular characteristics of the Easter Vigil Mass are glimpses of even more ancient traits of the early Roman Rite, such as the absence of candles for the Gospel, the absence of some of the usual antiphons, and the Litany leading into the Mass. These things illustrate a law of the liturgy: primitive rites are maintained with greater tenacity in the more sacred seasons of the liturgical year.

From Darkness to Light

Interview with Newly Baptized Men

What was satisfying about the religion you practiced earlier on?

The antiquity of the false religion I grew up along with its omnipresence into all aspects of life appealed to me. I cannot conceive of a religion disassociated from everyday existence and society. I would risk being a dichotomized schizophrenic if I were a John at Church and a James in the world.

What tells you that the universal Catholic Church is right and not wrong?

It is the original Church founded by Jesus and the only one for centuries. And neither the Great Schism nor the Protestant Revolution change the fact that it remains the one true Church. Also, the Catholic religion alone offers the gift of truth backed by a philosophical explication of transcendental truth unmatched by any other religious system in human history. And, looking at the fruits, I see that the Western Civilization is objectively the greatest civilization to have ever existed. As a non-European, I dare say with Belloc: “The faith is Europe and Europe is the faith.”

What were you looking for in the Catholic Church that you had not found elsewhere?

Peace of mind, peace of soul, and peace of faith. By that, I do not mean a mere “feeling,” but a dispassionate serenity reminiscent of total negation of all excitability, along with the disappearance of the self. Having lived with shades of modernist religions, I was looking for an institution grounded in tradition, which was not subject to the moods of modern society and the whims of public opinion.

Were some friends instrumental in drawing you to the faith?

No. My family and friends thought I had lost my mind for converting to Catholicism. Christianity was bad enough, but Catholicism?! It was too much for the poor folks I knew.

How long did it take you to visit our SSPX church?

It took me a couple of years after hearing about the SSPX before my research sparked my curiosity to come and attend Sunday Mass. The visit exceeded my expectation. I got a sense of true and authentic worship of God that was sorely missing before. People didn’t just gather to talk about God, but were truly paying respect, adoring and honoring God in a way that felt complete.

Did you not feel unfamiliar in attending the Mass in Latin?

I felt right at home attending the beautiful and divine Latin Mass of all time. In fact, it was when I attended the Novus Ordo Mass that I felt alien and extremely uncomfortable. Even the Anglicans were more dignified in their liturgy than some of the insanity I saw being peddled as “liturgy.” Truth is beautiful and there is no beauty in the Novus Ordo Mass.

What did preparing for baptism mean to you?

It meant learning the faith and living it. It is not enough to show up on Sunday and listen to bells and inhale some incense. The faith is everything and the Catholic intellectual life consists of an incomparable commitment to truth and its application in every second of life. From cradle to the grave and everything in between.

Any last comment?

If you are not a Catholic, then what are you waiting for? Learn the faith and convert! If you are already a Catholic, then what are you waiting for? Live your faith and evangelize. From the generational point of view, I’m grateful to be able to resume worshiping in a way that is very similar to how my great-grandparents worshiped but was subsequently disrupted by communism in Eastern Europe for two generations. I thank God for allowing this to happen and for His providence that guided us back on the correct path. I couldn’t be happier for my family to accompany me in this journey to join the Holy Catholic Church.



Bishop Bernard Fellay came to St. Isidore in Watkins (Denver), CO on February 13, 2021 to confirm 55 souls. A beautiful Solemn High Mass followed the ceremony.



Nearly 50 children and adults were confirmed by Bishop Fellay at St. Joseph's Church in Ray Township, MI on March 7, 2021.



Parishioners of St. Philomena in Miami, FL held a festival to celebrate the feast of their patron.



The St. Philomena celebration also proved to be a great time to celebrate Fr. Fabula's birthday!





At Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Church in West Palm Beach, FL, Holy Name Society members and ushers gather after a recent ceremony.



In February, St. Isidore's Church had a retreat at the Franciscan Retreat Center in Colorado Springs for 11 senior girls and 17 women of the parish.

Nearly 50 saint-wannabes celebrated the Feast of All Saints with games, contests, and food at St. Joseph's in Ray Township, MI.





In December 2020, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Oak Grove, MN purchased a new rectory within one mile of IHM Academy.



Students at St. Joseph's Academy in Ray Township, MI worked in teams to create displays showcasing the life of Archbishop Lefebvre.



Last fall, Br. Marcel completed a custom crucifix and refinished two statues for the sanctuary at IHM Academy in MN.



As of January 1, 2021, SSPX priests in MN have been saying Mass in both St. Paul and Oak Grove because of parish growth. With 500 people each week and counting, both locations are full.

Military Care Packages

The Legion of Mary has prepared Spiritual Care Packages for the military containing: the *Wartime Prayer Book* by Archbishop Sheen, Combat Rosaries, sturdy Scapulars, St. Benedict Medals, Miraculous Medals and personal notes. You can help by making a donation (each package costs about \$15 to assemble including postage) and by giving names of service members or veterans who would benefit from the packages. If you would like to request a package please contact Mrs. Dianne Davis at 610-299-7284 (call or text) or email diannedave1995@yahoo.com.

2021 Confirmations

Chapel	Date	Bishop
Long Prairie, MN	Saturday, Apr 10	Fellay
St. Cloud, MN	Sunday, Apr 11	Fellay
St. Paul, MN	Monday, Apr 12	Fellay
Madison, WI	Saturday, Apr 17	Fellay
Mukwonago, WI	Sunday, Apr 18	Fellay
Baton Rouge, LA	Friday, Apr 23	Fellay
Roswell, GA	Saturday, Apr 24	Fellay
Sanford, FL	Sunday, Apr 25	Fellay
Warners, NY	Saturday, May 1	Fellay
St. Louis, MO	Sunday, May 2	Fellay
Farmingville, NY	Saturday, May 8	Fellay
Eddystone, PA	Sunday, May 9	Fellay
Post Falls, ID	Saturday, May 15	Fellay
Post Falls, ID	Sunday, May 16	Fellay

US Pilgrimages

Pascua Florida Pilgrimage

April 6-11, 2021

In its 9th year, join pilgrims and walk and canoe to Mission Nombre de Dios in St. Augustine, Florida. Accommodations are made for those who can only do a portion of the pilgrimage. For more information, including registration, please visit sspflorida.com.

Cataldo Pilgrimage

July 23-25, 2021

Walk in the footsteps of the great missionary, Fr. De Smet, and join this 50-mile journey through North Idaho wilderness to Idaho's oldest Catholic Church, the Sacred Heart Mission. Pilgrims can choose to participate for one, two or all three days of the pilgrimage. For more information and to register, go to cataldopilgrimage.org.

Regina Pilgrimages

Catholic Roots of Texas

October 2-9, 2021

Journey to the heart of Texas to witness the Catholic roots of this beautiful state. Spend seven nights in San Antonio, visiting missions and many of the most beautiful churches in Texas. Explore the surrounding area and learn about the early Christianization by missionaries and about European immigrants' toils and efforts to establish Catholic communities in this region. Make a walking pilgrimage to the San Antonio missions and visit some of the oldest Catholic churches in Texas, including the oldest: the Cathedral of San Antonio. Visit New Braunfels, Fredericksburg, Praha, High Hill, Schulenburg, Shiner, Victoria, and Goliad. Accompanied by an SSPX priest.

For more information please contact: Regina Pilgrimages
866-369-8149 | 785-437-2883 | info@reginapilgrimages.com
PO Box 67, Saint Marys, KS 66536 | www.reginapilgrimages.com

Mass Stipends

To request a Mass intention, please note the current requested stipends:

- For one Mass: \$20
- For a novena of Masses (9 consecutive Masses): \$200
- For Gregorian Masses (30 consecutive Masses): \$800

Eucharistic Crusade

Monthly Intentions



April: To thank Our Blessed Lord and to console Him for our ingratitude.

O my Lord Jesus Christ, I pay my homage this day to thy adorable Heart: first, in thanksgiving for this great gift itself; secondly, as a reparation for all the injuries which Thou hast received from all Thy enemies in this Sacrament; thirdly, by this visit I intend to adore Thee in all those places where Thou, sacramentally present, art least revered and most abandoned. Mayest Thou be ever known, adored, loved and praised at every moment.

May: To thank Our Blessed Lady and to pray that she be better loved.

O Holy Spirit, Creator, be propitious to the Catholic Church; and by Thy heavenly power make it strong and secure against the attacks of its enemies; and renew in charity and grace the spirit of Thy servants whom Thou hast anointed, that they may glorify Thee and the Father and His only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

June: So that souls know and love the Sacred Heart of Jesus even better.

Heart of Jesus, burning with love for us, inflame our hearts with love of Thee!

E-mail: eucharistic-crusade@ssp.org

Upcoming Retreats

Men:

May 5-8, 2021	Marian	Phoenix, AZ
May 17-22, 2021	Ignatian	Ridgefield, CT
June 23-27, 2021	Ignatian	Kansas City, MO
July 5-10, 2021	Ignatian	Sanford, FL
July 22-25, 2021	Ignatian	St. Louis, MO
Sept 13-18, 2021	Ignatian	Phoenix, AZ
Nov 8-13, 2021	Ignatian	Ridgefield, CT
Nov 30-Dec 4	Ignatian	Phoenix, AZ

Women:

Apr 12-17, 2021	Ignatian	Ridgefield, CT
May 24-29, 2021	Ignatian	Phoenix, AZ
June 21-26, 2021	Ignatian	Sanford, FL
July 7-11, 2021	Ignatian	Kansas City, MO
July 12-17, 2021	Ignatian	Ridgefield, CT
July 12-17, 2021	Ignatian	St. Louis, MO
July 19-24, 2021	Vocation	Phoenix, AZ
Oct 11-16, 2021	Ignatian	Ridgefield, CT
Oct 11-16, 2021	Ignatian	Phoenix, AZ

Mixed:

Oct 27-30, 2021	Matrimony	Phoenix, AZ
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Dates subject to change. For more information please contact:
816-733-2500 | www.ssp.org