

Final Performance Task Options for Unit 3

Important Information for Both Options

The following are the main ideas you are to understand from this unit. They should appear in this final performance task so your teacher can assess whether you learned the most essential content:

- The three Sacraments of Christian Initiation begin and strengthen our life in Christ.
- The Easter Vigil is the most appropriate time to celebrate the Sacraments of Christian Initiation.
- Baptism requires an ongoing conversion, a continual turning toward God in the midst of our everyday lives.
- Through Baptism we are united with Christ and made adopted children of God.

Option 1: Attend a Baptism Celebration

Ask permission from your local Catholic parish to attend a Baptism, unless it occurs during a Sunday celebration of the Eucharist. Infant Baptisms are often scheduled on a certain Sunday (or Sundays) of the month. Baptisms during a Sunday Mass are preferable. The optimum celebration is an adult Baptism during the Easter Vigil if this celebration happens to coincide with this unit.

Participate in a fully conscious and intentional way in the celebration by listening to the prayers, to the words of the Rite of Baptism, and to the readings of the Word of God. Sing the communal hymns and carefully watch for the symbols used in Baptism.

Write a reflection essay that addresses the following questions:

- What aspects of this sacramental celebration most clearly communicated the meaning of Baptism as initiation into the Church?
- What symbols were used, and what was the purpose and meaning of each?
- Did the symbols convey their intended meaning effectively? Explain.
- Whether the celebration was for an adult or for an infant, what words or actions did you hear or observe that communicated the importance of adult responsibility in living out the Christian life? If the Baptism was an infant Baptism, where does adult responsibility fit in?
- In what manner is the identity of the person baptized different or changed after Baptism? (Listen carefully to all of the words in the Rite of Baptism.)

Be sure to also address the unit's key understandings in your reflection essay.



Option 2: Interview a Catechumen

Interview a catechumen (or candidate for full communion in the Catholic Church) at any time after the Rite of Acceptance using the following questions as a guide. Then write a report about your interview, addressing the following questions:

- What *purpose* do you think God might have for you as a Christian? (What is God asking you to do as a Christian?)
- What difference has faith in Jesus Christ made in your life so far?
- After you have received the Sacraments of Christian Initiation, or the Sacraments of Confirmation and the Eucharist, what will you need from the Church to help you live a life of faith?
- How have family members, friends, coworkers, and other people around you responded to your decision to become a Catholic Christian?
- In which ways will initiation into the Church through Baptism change you?
- How important is it to you to be baptized (if you have not already been baptized), to be confirmed, and to receive your First Communion at the Easter Vigil?

Be sure to also address the unit's key understandings in your report.

