

Chapter 18

Initiation

How good it is, how pleasant, where the people dwell as one.

Psalm 133:1

To the Parents:

In chapter 18 your child learned to:

- Name and describe the sacraments of initiation
- Tell how the sacraments of initiation welcome, strengthen, and nourish members of the Catholic community, the Body of Christ

Not many who were baptized as infants or young children can remember their first experience of initiation into the Catholic community. Yet, we may remember other initiation experiences—initiation into a high school club, initiation into a college sorority or fraternity, taking first vows as part of a religious community, or perhaps our initiation into parenthood with the birth or adoption of a child. These types of experiences often remain with us for life—and for good reason. These experiences tell of the many places and communities to which we belong and the special privileges that come with belonging.

As baptized Christians we belong to the greater Christian community. As confirmed Catholics we accept the responsibility of our baptism and live our lives as God’s chosen people, followers of Jesus Christ. But what does this mean? In the Gospel of John, Jesus reminds us of our greatest responsibility as his chosen people: “It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit...This I command you: love on another” (*John 15:16–17*). We are to love one another as he has loved us.

With Your Child:

1. Tell the stories of baptisms, First Communion, Confirmations, and weddings that have occurred in your family. Use the family photo collection to help you.
2. Honor someone in your family on the anniversary of their baptism, First Communion, or Confirmation. Light a baptismal candle. Include their name in your meal prayer. Serve a special food.
3. Read about Saint Richard Chichester on the Review and Explore page.