

## **DIOCESAN POLICY FOR THE RECEPTION OF BAPTISM**



### **For infant baptism**

1. Infants should be baptized soon after birth, but sufficient time is necessary for the proper instruction.
2. Children who are seven years of age or older must receive instruction in the church before being baptized (cf adult baptism).
3. The ordinary place for baptism is the parish church of the parents.
4. One of the parents or a legal guardian must request baptism.
5. There must be a founded hope that the child baptized will be brought up in the Catholic religion.
6. Godparents must have received Baptism, Confirmation and the Holy Eucharist, should be at least 16 years of age, and should be practicing Catholics who are able to give the example of a good Catholic life. There are normally to be two godparents, one man, and one woman.
7. A baptized non-Catholic may not be a godparent but may be an official witness to the baptism, as long as there is one Catholic godparent.
8. Baptism is not to be conferred until parents have attended pre-baptismal instruction. The responsibilities of parents and godparents are to be reviewed, as well as preparation for the celebration of the rite of baptism.