

¶ Celebration after an Initiation Service outside the Parish

Pastoral Introduction

This may be read by those present before the service begins

Baptism marks the beginning of a journey with God which continues for the rest of our lives. In the last *months N and N* have been exploring the meaning of baptism in Jesus Christ. They have looked together at the call to discipleship in the world and in the Church. They have sought to understand the responsibilities of discipleship in today's world. We celebrate with them their *baptism / confirmation by Bishop N / their affirmation of baptismal faith* and will seek to learn with them the Way of Christ.

Prayers of Intercession

At the prayers of intercession the following may be used

We pray for *N and N*,
that they may know continue to grow in the grace of Christ,
take their place among the company of your people,
and reflect your glory in the world.
Lord in your mercy

All **hear our prayer.**

The Welcome and Peace

The president says

I present to you *N and N* who have recently been *baptized / confirmed / affirmed their baptismal faith*. Will you welcome them and uphold them in their new life in Christ?

All **With the help of God, we will.**

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:
N and N, by one Spirit we are all baptized into one body.

All **We welcome you into the fellowship of faith;
we are children of the same heavenly Father;
we welcome you.**

An opportunity may be given for testimony.

The president introduces the peace in these or other suitable words

We are all one in Christ Jesus.
We belong to him through faith,
heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
All **and also with you.**

All may exchange a sign of peace.