

## EMERGENCY BAPTISM

An infant in danger of death is to be baptized without any delay (c.867 §2).

An adult in danger of death can be baptized if, having some knowledge of the principal truths of the faith, has manifested in any way at all the intention to receive Baptism and promises to observe the commandments of the Christian religion (c.865 §2).

### PROCEDURE:

- When an emergency Baptism takes place in a location other than a parish church (e.g., hospital), Document 610A - Roman Catholic Emergency Baptism Information Form is to be completed and forwarded to the parish in which the Baptism took place.
- Upon receipt of the completed Document 610 A, the parish will record the Baptism in the Baptism Register, along with all of the relevant details listed on the form. The parish, in turn, will keep Document 610A in the Permanent File.
- When a priest is conferring the Sacrament of Baptism in an emergency situation (e.g., in danger of death), he may also confer the Sacrament of Confirmation. For emergency Confirmation, it is sufficient for the priest to administer the laying on of hands and the anointing with Chrism while saying, "*N., be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.*" (Rite of Confirmation, 39)
- When a priest is not available, in case of necessity, any person can baptize provided that he or she has:
  - the intention to baptize as the Church baptizes
  - pours water on the candidate's head
  - while saying: "*I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*" (CCC 1284)
- If the person baptized survives the emergency, a celebration of welcome can take place in the parish church. In this case, the Rite of Bringing a Baptized Child to the Church Outside Mass or the Rite of Bringing a Baptized Child to the Church Within Mass would be used (i.e., the rite can be adapted for use with a baptized adult).

