

Infant Dedication for (name of baby)

Litany of Dedication (*responsively*)

Pastor: *If children live with criticism, they learn to condemn.*

People: **If children live with hostility, they learn to fight.**

Pastor: *If children live with ridicule, they learn to be shy.*

People: **If children live with shame, they learn to feel guilty.**

Pastor: *If children live with tolerance, they learn to be patient.*

People: **If children live with encouragement, they learn confidence.**

Pastor: *If children live with praise, they learn to appreciate.*

People: **If children live with security, they learn to have faith.**

Pastor: *If children live with approval, they learn to like themselves.*

People: **If children live with acceptance and friendship,
they learn to find love in the world.**

All: *If our children are to inherit God's love,
then we must not keep it from them.*

Dedication of Intentions

Minister: *(parents first names), in gratitude for the gift of (first and second name of baby) you present her/him in this way to her/his Lord. In dependence on God's grace, will you endeavor, by example and teaching, to provide her/him with a home of faith and love:*

- That she/he may know throughout her/his childhood and growth into adulthood the warmth, hope, and freedom of the Christian faith;*
- That she/he may welcome life's beauty, learn from its pain, and share in its joys;*
- That her/his love for others may deepen with knowledge and insight of every kind;*
- That she/he may discover what is the breadth and length and height and depth of the love of God, and of Jesus Christ through whom God has made such love known;*
- That her/his life may be open to the grace and purpose of God and to the call of God's Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord?*

Parents Response: **With God's help we will!**

Minister: *And will all of you who belong to this church, and are gathered here on this day, seek to be a community through which (full name of infant) can discover the meaning of the Christian faith and stir into flame — the gifts which God has given this child, whatever they may be?*

Congregational Response: **WITH GOD'S HELP WE WILL!**

(continued on back...)

(dedication continued below)

Minister: *Do you promise as a community of faith: to surround the (last name of parents) family with your love for the strengthening of their life together; to be for these parents and their children a family in Christ whose love for them cannot be broken; to accept (first name of infant) into your loving care and share the responsibility for her growth toward fullness of life in Christ, to help her/him learn Christ's ways and to lead her/him in service to God and neighbor?*

Congregational Response: **WE DO, WITH GOD HELPING US!**

Pastoral Blessing

**As I anoint your head with oil, (child's full name),
and mark you with the sign of our Lord's cross,
claiming you as a child of God,
I pray that throughout your life,
the Lord bless you and watch over you,
God's face shine upon you
and be gracious to you,
The Lord look kindly on you and always give you peace.**

Prayer of Dedication

Let us pray:

Gracious God, who cares for humanity like a loving parent cares for their child, accept the gratitude of our hearts for the life of this child, (full name of child), and also for the loving concern of her parents, (first names of parents). We pray now that you would sanctify the important vows we each have made before you this day.

Uphold (names of parents) that they may guide (first name of child) in the ways of faith, truth, justice, honor, and righteousness. Bless (first names of parents) with patience, wisdom, sound judgment, and understanding as they seek to bring up their daughter/son in a life of Christian faith. May they find comfort and joy, happiness and fulfillment in this young one you have given to them.

O God of grace, may each of us who are present today also provide a foundation of strength, grace and Christian faith to this family. May we exercise helpfulness and be a source for wisdom and love. May we all take our duties as Christian brothers and sisters of (first name of child) seriously as she/he grows and seeks the gifts of guidance and friendship we have to give. Through the life that our Lord—Jesus Christ has bestowed upon us we Pray, Amen.

Introduction of child to congregation