

# BAPTISMAL GARMENT

The following information regarding the baptismal garment is taken from the *National Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy Newsletter*.

2000, Volume XXXVI, February, p. 6.

In recent months the Secretariat for the Liturgy has received several inquiries concerning the baptismal garment for adults. The common practice in the dioceses of this country is to use an alb or other white garment, though the practice of using a colored garment or even a chasuble or dalmatic has begun to appear in some places. The *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* describes the optional clothing of the neophyte with the baptismal garment immediately following baptism. The garment is described as white or some other color according to local custom (RCIA 220). The *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* is quite clear that since vesture symbolizes the function of the one who wears it (GIRM 297), the chasuble is reserved for priests and the dalmatic for deacons (299, 230). Other ministers may wear albs or, by local custom, the cassock and surplice.

Thus it would seem that the most appropriate vesture for neophytes would be a white garment, probably in the shape of an alb or choir robe. If a baptismal garment is not specially created, an alb or white choir robe could appropriately be used. In no instance should those who are not ordained be vested in chasuble, stole or dalmatic.

## Related references:

### GENERAL INSTRUCTION OF THE ROMAN MISSAL

297. ... This diversity of ministries is shown outwardly in worship by the diversity of vestments. These should therefore symbolize the function proper to each ministry. But at the same time the vestments should also contribute to the beauty of the rite.

299. Unless otherwise indicated, the chasuble, worn over the alb and stole, is the vestment proper to the priest celebrant at Mass and other rites immediately connected with Mass.

230. The dalmatic, worn over the alb and stole, is the vestment proper to the deacon.

### RITE OF BAPTISM OF CHILDREN

18.3. The celebration of the sacrament is completed, first by the anointing with chrism, which signifies the royal priesthood of the baptized and enrollment in the fellowship of God's people; then by the ceremonies of the white garment, lighted candle, and *Ephphetha* (the last of which is optional).