

## Family Preparation for the Baptism of their Child

### Reflection 1 Setting the Scene at home

*Invite all members of the family to participate*

Parents: Welcome all and explain that over the next few weeks they will be preparing at home for the Baptism of... name of the baby.

Let's begin: We will be asked:

#### **1 What Name have you given your child?**

- Recall together the name we have given our child and WHY
- Set us share with one another how precious and meaningful each of our names is.

★ *We have called you by your name* ★  
*you are ours*

- Pause and think about yourselves and your child.
- You might like to share with one another what this means for you and your child.

#### **2. What do we ask for our child?**

- Let us "imagine" the future for our child and for ourselves – What would I/we would like to be... What are our hopes for....

On the day when we bring our child to church to be baptised we will be asked: **What name have you given your child?**

**A Patron Saint:** Maybe we might like to add the name of a saint after our child's name. Talk about this with your family.

- ❖ **Why is it good to name a Patron Saint?**
- ❖ **Which Saint would we name as your Child's patron before God?**



#### **3. What do you ask of God's Church for your Child?**

- The answer you will give is in one word: BAPTISM.
- However there is a further question. It lists what you are undertaking to do for your baptised child.

*Together with your family members share on what you think these undertakings are.*

*Together with your family members share on how you together can fulfill these*

#### **A Moment of Family Prayer:**

In ancient times, the husbands in Israel, carved the name of their wives on the palms of their hands – a sign of love and faithfulness. God reminds his people of this.

- **Gather round your child together as a family;**
- **Recite the following verses from the Bible:**

**"I have called you by your name; you are mine." (Isaiah 43:1)**

**"I have carved your name on the palm of my hand\." (Isaiah 49:1)**

**ALL share prayer thanking God for the baby and asking blessings on the baby and on each member of the family.**