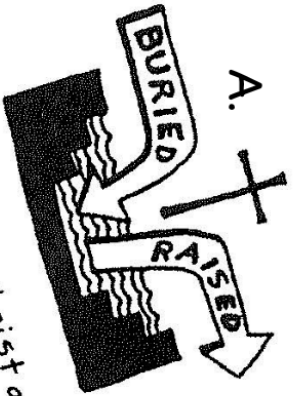


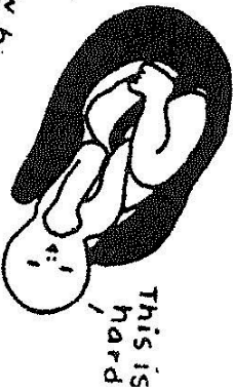
Reflection Questions to Accompany Baptismal Images

- 1) Look at the images on the handout. Which image of baptism speaks to you most profoundly and why?
- 2) Locate that image's corresponding reflection question below. Think of a story or example from your life in response to that question.
- 3) [Extra Credit] Who will you share that story with, sometime between now and Easter?
 - A. **Dying and Rising** → When have you experienced an ending that gave way to a new beginning? How did God bring that about?
 - B. **New Birth** → When have you experienced a complete change in your life that felt like a fresh start? How was God present in that change?
 - C. **Cleansing Bath** → When have you experienced a spiritual cleansing or time of spiritual renewal? What was that experience like and how did God bring it about?
 - D. **Sealed by the Holy Spirit** → Who has reminded you of God's pledge that you are a beloved child of God, either through their words or actions? How did they do that and how has that made a difference in your life?
 - E. **Transfer** → Think of a transition or pivot point in your life. How was Jesus present and what graces were a part of that new chapter?
 - F. **Clothed in Christ** → When have you felt clothed in forgiveness? How did that help you feel connected to Christ?
 - G. **Passage on Noah's Ark** → When was God with you in a time of chaos, turbulence, or uncertainty?
 - H. **Enlightenment** → When has the Holy Spirit "connected the dots" for you in a profound way, or you felt God's wisdom illumine a situation or course of action for you? What was that experience like?
 - I. **Adoption** → When have you felt adopted into a new group or community? What was that like and how was that made meaningful for you?
 - J. **Grafted** → How have you been nourished by Christ through the faith communities you've been a part of? What parts of worship/church are especially meaningful to you and help you feel spiritually nourished?

In the New Testament we find beautiful and powerful images which teach about baptism. In these pictures we learn that baptism is...



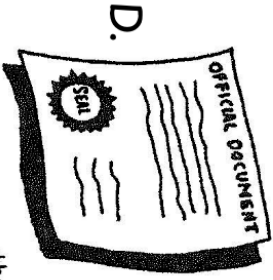
A. dying with Christ and rising with life (Rom 6, Col 2:12-13).



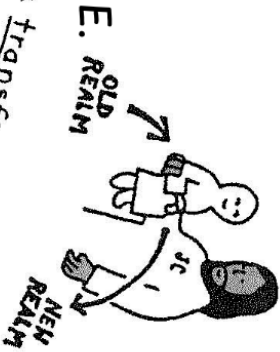
B. new birth, change so complete that it is like being born anew, born from above (John 3).



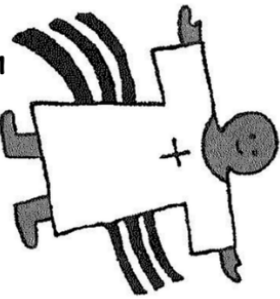
C. a cleansing bath, the washing away of sin (1 PET 3:21-22, ACTS 22:16, TITUS 3:4-8).



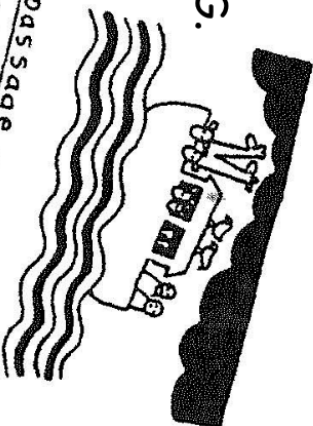
D. being sealed by the Holy Spirit. A seal testifies to authenticity. God's pledge of our sealing; God's children of that we are children of God (II COR 1:21-22, EPH 1:13-14).



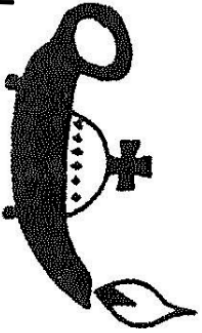
E. a transfer from an old ownership to a new ownership, an old realm to a new realm, an old creation to a new creation (II COR 5:17, COL 1:13-14).



F. being clothed in a new robe - Jesus Christ, new robe - Jesus Christ, covered by his forgiveness and righteousness (GAL 3:27-28, COL 3:9-10, REV 7:9).



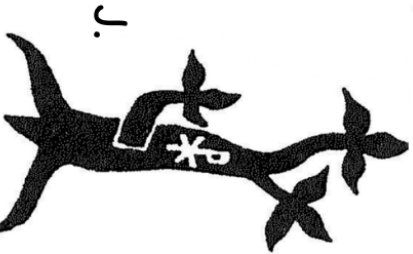
G. a passage on Noah's Ark - saved from the waters of chaos and death (1 PET 3:18-22).



H. enlightenment, the illumination of the Holy Spirit, the dawning of the light of Christ (EPH 5:14)



I. adoption into a new family, becoming a daughter or son of royalty, a child of God (EPH 1:3-5, JOHN 1:12-13, GAL 3:25-29, ROM 8:14-17).



J. being grafted into Christ to live in Christ, to be nourished by Christ (JOHN 15, ROM 11:19-23).

NOTE: Other New Testament images include entry into priesthood (1 PET 2:9, REV 1:6) and a new circumcision (COL 2:11-13). Most of the above passages refer directly to baptism; others have a history of being related to baptism.