

## How the baptismal covenant helps to shape the experience of raising children

### *Taking the Plunge: Baptism and Parenting*

A new book by Canon Anne E. Kitch

You've chosen the godparents, dressed the baby in yards of white, and headed to church for the christening. Now what? What does the sacrament of baptism mean in your child's life – and yours? What are you promising when you baptize your child? Why are “please” and “thank you” theological words, not simply polite things to say?

Canon Anne Kitch of the Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem, with a light touch that includes many real-life stories, deals with all of this in her new book, *Taking the Plunge: Baptism and Parenting*, available from Morehouse Publishing.

(Visit [www.morehousepublishing.org](http://www.morehousepublishing.org) and search for Kitch to get more information about *Taking the Plunge* and earlier books by Anne.)

With a light touch and includes many real-life stories, *Taking the Plunge* explores how the baptismal covenant helps to shape the experience of raising children.

In her review of the book, author and retreat leader Barbara Crafton describes Anne as “a quiet treasure of the Church, offering wise and relaxed access to our tradition for ordinary people, in a way that respects their wisdom and experience.”

Author Phyllis Tickle says Anne combines “a mother's sensibilities with a priest's passion,” creating “the most sensible and accessible overview of baptism I have seen in a very long time.”

Dr. John Westerhoff, author of *Holy Baptism: A Guide for Parents and Godparents*, says Kitch has written “a very readable, helpful book that brings the Baptismal liturgy to life, but the most original and insightful content is found in the second half which suggests practical ways to use the Baptismal Covenant as a guide to child rearing in the home.”

Author Debra Farrington says the book is “good theology, and an honest and practical guide to being a good parent and a faithful guide for our children.”

Thomas E. Breidenthal, Dean of Religious Life, Princeton University, says the book “is a lively unpacking of the baptismal promises as they relate to the everyday challenges facing families today. Anne Kitch's directness, humility and personal witness will be a welcome resource for parents striving to raise their children in the context of Christian faith and parish life.”

