

The Reception
of
Mr Edward Ryan
into
The Orthodox Church

The Sacrament
of
Holy Chrismation

March 25, 2012
Great Feast of Annunciation

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church
Willimantic, Connecticut

The Orthodox Church teaches that chrismation is a Sacrament, therefore it bestows grace, God's free gift that man has done nothing to deserve. It is sacramental grace which alone allows each of us to be changed; to move from a fallen and sinful life, to one that transforms us into a transfigured and sanctified person.

The free gift of God's grace however, will not change us if we do not permit it to. It takes hard work. The free will we have been created with allows each person to choose a life in sin, or a life in the Holy Spirit. There is no third choice.

The sacramental grace that Eddie Ryan receives today will assist in his quest for salvation, achieved only through a life lived in a covenant relationship with Jesus Christ. For all its power, the Holy Spirit can indeed remain inactive, if man chooses to suppress it through a life lived in sin. An active life of prayer, participation in the Eucharistic banquet, repentance, good works, and a desire to live in constant and intimate communion with God, are all ways to ignite the Holy Spirit; which then gives birth to grace, which then moves toward sanctification, which then leads to salvation and eternal life in God's kingdom.

We ask God's abundant mercy on Eddie Ryan. That he will be enlightened in the true faith and become a vessel of the Holy Spirit. That he will live a life worthy of his calling. In many respects Eddie becomes a part of each of us today as we become his Orthodox family, and we become a part of him. May he always see the face of Christ in us.

Today each of us embraces Eddie with great Christian joy. We humbly offer prayer to God that Eddie will continually find comfort and illumination in the Orthodox Church, and may he find love and Christ in each soul he encounters throughout his entire life.

Fr Marc Vranes
March 25, 2012