*Note: I have changed the names*

*Of the family in this sample*

*To protect their privacy*

**“Jeremy Robbins”**

**Baby Dedication Ceremony**

**August 25, 2013**

Our faith calls us

To care for all children –

in our own families,

in our faith community,

in our local community, our nation

and those around the world.

Our faith calls us

to celebrate life

and to welcome new life

when it comes blooming forth

into our midst.

We recognize the dignity

and individuality of each of our children,

AND their relationship

to the community of humankind.

We acknowledge that each child

changes the lives of all they touch,

as each child also changes

the history of the world.

Hear these words of

Fellow colleague Waldemar Argow:

We are your children.

Out of the infinite

we have come to you,

And through you.

We are the old,

Yet ever new,

Miracle of incarnation.

Give us a chance to grow,

Within the warmth

Of your unfailing love,

Into souls sensitive to beauty,

Hearts open to love

And hungry for the

Imperishable values of life.

Do not shrink

And wither us with fear,

But quicken with faith

The springs of courage

Within us.

Enter with us,

Through the gates of wonder.

Accept us,

As we grow,

Into a fellowship of mutual respect

And shared responsibilities,

That we,

In our turn,

May be worthy fathers and mothers

Of the coming generation.

“Joe and Sarah” –

You are called to dedicate yourself

to the task of guiding and nurturing

your child with patient loving care

so they may grow to know

their beloved birthright

of inherent worth and dignity

as a member of the human family.

Do you publicly affirm

the significance of your role

in Jeremey’s life?

Affirm your commitment

to the privilege and responsibility

to care for your child in body, mind, and spirit,

that he may grow into

the fullness of health, love and human potential?

And will you call upon your family

and the church community

to assist you in this noble calling?

If so, please answer: I do.

*Parent Responds: I do.*

Children – and their promise

Of new life and new beginnings –

Are a blessing.

As we welcome the gift

Of new life

Into our community,

We recognize

no one is raised in a vacuum.

As we grow up,

our understandings

Of who we are,

And what we value as most important in life

Are influenced by not only our families,

But also by countless others

In the institutions and relationships

That shape our lives –

Our schools, our friends, our neighbors,

Our participation in sports,

Scouts, hobbies as well as

Our faith communities.

ALL of us, together –

parents, family, and this congregation --

play an essential role

as we support and nurture

the continuous unfolding

of this miraculous blessing

here before us.

In welcoming children,

we, members of this faith community,

also accept responsibility.

May we offer these children safety,

affection, encouragement, challenge,

and good judgment.

I ask everyone here this morning –

Our children, youth and adults –

do you pledge your understanding

and support to this family?

If so, please say –

VERY LOUDLY –

YES WE DO!!

This flower is a symbol

of life’s beauty

and the unfolding of our life.

Jeremy, we have removed the thorns,

and hope for you that your life

will be filled with as few thorns as possible,

and that you will always be surrounded

by loving people who will help you

when there ARE thorns

in the days ahead.

We will dip the flower into water,

a symbol of the blessing of life.

(place hand on child’s head)

“Jeremy Joseph Robbins” –

By this name you are known,

and your inherent worth

and individuality are recognized.

Born on April 11, 2013, in Alexandria, Virginia,

welcome into the fellowship of life

and human community!....

(take rose, dip into water, then touch him with rose)

I touch you on your brow,

your lips,

your heart,

and your hands –

to dedicate your thoughts,

your speech,

your heart

and your deeds

to our heritage of service and love.

We wish for you

the fulfillment of a long life,

strong and radiant with purpose,

hope, love,

wonder and joy.

May the blessings of life be yours in abundance,

Now and forevermore.

Amen!