

In 2011 my wife Pat and I journeyed to San Francisco to be with our family at Christmas. We were also there so I could baptize my second grandson, Amedeo. His name means "Gods love" in Italian...can you tell my daughter-in-law Sonia is Italian?

The celebration turned out to be quite an event...you see the night before the Baptism as we were talking after dinner, Sonia's mother mentioned that she had never been baptized. In 1970 as a brave and adventurous 23 year old Japanese young woman, she emigrated to Italy. Tsuji Mitsuyo (who we call Mimi) within 5 years was married and had a baby daughter. Mimi said she has been thinking about being baptized and becoming a Catholic for decades. At that time, she and her husband lived in Dalian, China a city that has no Catholic Churches, and she regretted she wasn't baptized. Needless to say I was blown away....I told Mimi that if she wanted to be baptized, somehow we would get it done. The next day I spoke with the Pastor after Mass, and with his approval I baptized 7-month-old Amedeo and his 66-year-old grandma Mimi.

On Monday we went to the church office to register Mimi's baptism. The registrar hadn't heard about it, so he called the Pastor to come to the office. Well, to my surprise, the Pastor who walked in wasn't the priest I spoke to the day before! I explained the situation and that I baptized Mimi with her grandson. He said something about how he needed to check with the canon lawyers. As we left the building, I assured Mimi that she was baptized and that it wouldn't wash off.

When I got home my Pastor told me I should have confirmed her as well!

Years later, I discovered that I didn't have faculties as a Deacon to baptized adults.

Well, you know what? Mimi wanted to be baptized and we got it done!