

CONTENTS

List of Illustrations	xi
Abbreviations	xvii
Foreword	xxv
Introduction	1
Chapter One Baptismal Iconography in Catacomb	
Painting	5
Introduction: Evidence and Method	5
1.1. Early Christian Painting	9
1.1.1. Catacomb of Callixtus	12
1.1.2. Catacomb of Domitilla	16
1.1.3. Catacomb of Peter and Marcellinus	17
1.1.4. The Catacomb of St. Ermete (Bassilla)	25
1.2. Discussion	26
1.2.1. Identification of the Scenes and the Figures	26
1.2.2. Contextual and Programmatic Analysis	29
1.2.3. Ancient Prayer for the Dead as Iconographic Source	31
1.2.4. Typological Interpretation of Scripture as Iconographic Source	33
Conclusion	40
Chapter Two Baptismal Iconography on Sarcophagus and	
Grave Reliefs	43
Introduction: Early Christian Sarcophagi	43
2.1. Iconography of Early Christian Sarcophagi	44
2.1.1. Italian Sarcophagi	46
2.1.2. Gallican and Spanish Sarcophagi	62
2.1.3. Marble Grave Marker from Aquileia	71
2.2. Discussion	75
2.2.1. The Third figure in the Baptism Scene	75
2.2.2. Moses/Peter Striking the Rock	76
2.2.3. Jesus' Foot Washing and Pilate's Hand Washing	79
Conclusion	81

Chapter Three	Baptismal Iconography in Ivory, Glass, and Mosaic	85
	Introduction: Transformation of Christian Visual Art in the Fourth and Fifth Centuries	85
3.1.	Baptismal Iconography in Non Funerary Art	87
3.1.1.	Minor Arts: Ivories	90
3.1.2.	Minor Arts: Glass	106
3.1.3.	Mosaics	108
3.2.	Discussion	112
3.2.1.	The Dove's Beak as Source of Holy Water, Oil, or Breath	112
3.2.2.	Attendant Angel(s)	115
3.2.3.	Personification of the Jordan River	117
3.2.4.	Christological Implications of the Orthodox and Arian Baptistry Iconography	123
Conclusion		125
Chapter Four	Aspects of Baptismal Images in Light of Early Liturgical Documents	127
	Introduction: Intersections of Image and Text	127
4.1.	Baptismal Settings: Outdoor Versus Indoor Spaces	129
4.2.	Water and Its Application	132
4.2.1.	Importance of Flowing or "Living" Water	132
4.2.2.	Water's Sanctification	134
4.2.3.	Baptism by Immersion, Affusion, or Aspersions	136
4.2.4.	Vessels for Administering Baptismal Water	142
4.3.	Individuals Involved in the Rite	143
4.3.1.	Recipients	143
4.3.2.	Administrators	149
4.3.3.	Presbyters and Deacons	151
4.3.4.	Deaconesses	153
4.3.5.	Sponsors and Witnesses	156
4.4.	Nakedness and Clothing	158
4.4.1.	Nudity and Modesty; Christians and the Public Baths	159
4.4.2.	The Practice of Nude Baptism	162
4.4.3.	Segregations of the Sexes	164
4.4.4.	Nakedness as Symbolic	166
4.4.5.	Re-Robing in White Garments	168

4.5. Confirmation: Invocation of the Holy Spirit	171
4.5.1. Imposition of Hands	171
4.5.2. The Dove	175
Conclusion	177
Chapter Five The Design and Decoration of Early Christian	
Baptisteries	179
Introduction	179
5.1. Purpose Built Baptisteries	180
5.1.1. The Dura Europos Baptistry	182
5.1.2. Baptisteries in Italy	184
5.1.3. Baptisteries at Primuliacum (Gaul) According to Paulinus of Nola	209
5.1.4. Baptisteries in North Africa	210
5.2. Discussion: Taxonomy of Structures, Font Shapes, and Placement	222
5.2.1. Attached Versus Freestanding Baptisteries; Placement Relative to Basilica Hall	223
5.2.2. Baptistry Design	224
5.2.3. Shapes and Depths of Fonts	225
5.2.4. Ciboria, Footbaths, Water Systems, and Drains	229
Conclusion	230
Chapter Six Symbolism in Baptistry Design and Décor	233
Introduction: Visual Symbols and Ritual Actions	233
6.1. Architectural Prototypes	234
6.1.1. Baths	234
6.1.2. Mausolea	237
6.2. Structural Symbolism	244
6.2.1. The Octagon	244
6.2.3. The Font as Womb	247
6.3. Decorative Motifs	251
6.3.1. Deer Coming to Water	252
6.3.2. The Shepherd and His Flock	254
6.3.3. Fishers and Fish	258
6.3.4. Christ Giving the Law (Traditio Legis)	262
6.3.5. Candles and Lamps	264
6.3.6. Noah's Ark	267
6.3.7. Starry Sky	269

6.3.8. Fruit-Bearing Trees	270
6.3.9. Cross and Christogram	271
6.3.10. Birds: Doves, Peacocks, and Phoenix	273
6.3.11. Apostolic Procession, Saints, and Crowns	276
6.3.12. New Testament Scenes	277
Conclusion	280
Bibliography	283
Index	299