

**Gro Mambo Angéla Noványón Idizol
Presents**



Chrismation

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The formal rite of passage from childhood to adulthood

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Chrismation: “A Rite of Passage”

Throughout the course of history, all developing societies had a “rite of passage” which marked the transition from childhood to adulthood. The rite of passage was full of trials, training and ritual. Each youth had to prove himself in an ordeal which tested his (or her) mettle and qualification to be accepted into the society as an adult.

Today in American society, the rite of passage has become a thing of the past except for certain traditional groups such as the Jewish people (bar mitzvah and bat mitzvah). One of the vestiges of the slavery experience is that African-American society does not have within itself an African point of spiritual or cultural reference. In the African-American community, the quest for rites of passage became a fad as those with a sincere desire to preserve African culture, but with fragmented knowledge of African spirituality, formulated rituals that lacked ties to the real substance of their ancestral legacy. Many attempts have been made to construct rites of passage because our young people need to be grounded in a tradition that will give direction and hope. However, rites and rituals should not be created in a vacuum. They must be tied to a culture and traditions that have, from generation to generation, demonstrated integrity and the capacity to rightly guide.

In their search for such culture and traditions, African-Americans and others, regardless of racial or religious background, would do well to explore the Chrismation de Fille (rites of passage for girls) and Chrismation de Garçon (rites of passage for boys). These ceremonies, created by Gro Mambo Angéla Noványón Idizol, utilize her knowledge of Haitian and African culture to offer a traditional African cultural experience in an authentic African spiritual context.

What is a

Chrismation?

A Chrismation is a formal confirmation, a rite of passage from childhood, customarily at or close to the age of 12 or 13. Within the African tradition, it is a rite of passage from childhood to adulthood.

One thing that American Society finds lacking outside of a directly religious rite of passage from childhood to adulthood is the formal rite of passage from childhood to adulthood. Gro Mambo has set a precedent by performing a formal Chrismation in the tradition of Africa for the first time ever in the United States.

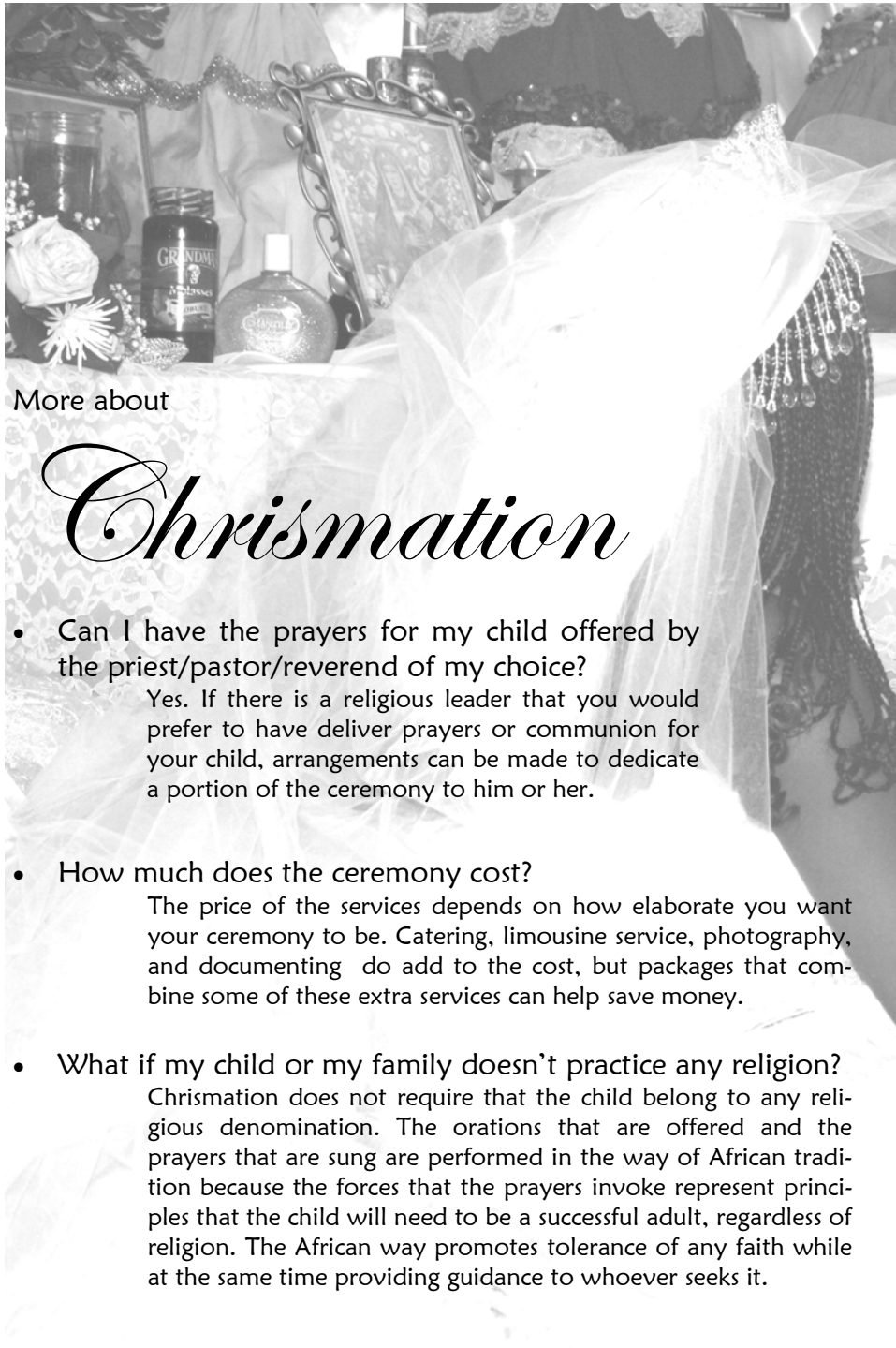
The true beauty of this ceremony is its significance in the life of the child. It is the formal rite of passage not only from childhood to adulthood but also from innocence to accountability. It is during this ceremony that the child accepts responsibility for his or her actions and for the knowledge of right and wrong. This ceremony empowers the child to make better decisions and prevent wrong choices in life, thereby forging a foundation for adult life based on strength, stability, faith, love, direction, peace, and wisdom.



regardless of faith, religion, or culture, the ceremony as a spiritual experience. Such rituals have come to be valued that no matter what



- What is the origin of *Chrismation*?
The word *Chrismation* comes from the French, drawing from its root *chrism*, which means *holy rite* or *sacrament*.
- What is the importance of each of the candle lights?
The lights have the following significance:
 - White: clarity, peace of mind, health, the power to abstain from unhealthy habits such as drug and alcohol abuse, and honesty first within oneself and then within every other aspect of life
 - Pink: love of self, love of life, love of family, and love of all things created by God
 - Royal blue: stability, family connection, charity, and self-esteem necessary to be a strong man or woman
 - Red: faith, hope, efficacy, and determination to strive to be successful
 - Light blue: the strength and power to take one's destiny in one's own hands and bring about positive change in the family and future generations
 - Turquoise: clarity of direction, education, career, marriage, and the discipline not to take the wrong direction and to avoid the influence of negativity in peers or life in general
 - Green: the stamina to work toward goals and see them through to fruition, and the humility to know when a mistake has been made and the stamina to work to correct the error, never to give up
- How can I get more information?
Simply contact Gro Mambo Angéla at LePeristyle Sanctuary by phone at (215) 276-3633, or visit gromambo.com.



More about

Chrismation

- Can I have the prayers for my child offered by the priest/pastor/reverend of my choice?
Yes. If there is a religious leader that you would prefer to have deliver prayers or communion for your child, arrangements can be made to dedicate a portion of the ceremony to him or her.
- How much does the ceremony cost?
The price of the services depends on how elaborate you want your ceremony to be. Catering, limousine service, photography, and documenting do add to the cost, but packages that combine some of these extra services can help save money.
- What if my child or my family doesn't practice any religion?
Chrismation does not require that the child belong to any religious denomination. The orations that are offered and the prayers that are sung are performed in the way of African tradition because the forces that the prayers invoke represent principles that the child will need to be a successful adult, regardless of religion. The African way promotes tolerance of any faith while at the same time providing guidance to whoever seeks it.

hood to adulthood symbolizing the coming of age for a teenage African-American society there is no formal event which establishes the

religious context is to Angéla has set a African Spirituality

child. It symbolizes it also from inno- cepts responsibility he ceremony em-



Chrismation de fille = Girl's confirmation
Chrismation de garçon = Boy's confirmation

More beauty can also be found in the universality of the principles of the ceremony. While other such rites of passage, such as Jewish Bat Mitzvahs or Bar Mitzvahs and Catholic Confirmations, are reserved for those who maintain a particular faith, a Chrismation in the tradition of African Spirituality is not. Anyone, religion, color, creed, or race can enjoy the benefits of a Chrismation and use it as a springboard for the successful adult life of any child. Moreover, while other things come and go, proving to be unsuccessful, Chrismation taps into a power that remains constant and will always maintain principles and significance.

What is the purpose of a *Chrismation*?

American society has come to see a decline in what used to be common values and virtues. As a result, today's young adults have fallen into patterns of bad decision-making, causing our youth to have the highest rates of violence, black-on-black crime, teen and pre-teen pregnancy, drug use, and the spread of disease of all kinds. Young adults today are afflicted with cancer, lower puberty age, sexually transmitted diseases, drug addiction, involvement in organized crime, and other conditions that not even a generation ago would have been unthinkable for people at such young ages. Further, the choices that the youth are making are paving roads in directions the youth need not go, forcing them to deal with decisions the consequences of which can take years away from their lives or, worse yet, negatively alter not only their lives but the lives of future generations as well. The basis of the Chrismation is to instill in the child the values that will aid in good decision-making and create a foundation for a healthy, successful adult life for the child and the avoidance of a pattern of self-destructive and immoral behavior.

What is included in a *Chrismation*?

The ceremony includes a formal procession of the child into the ceremony with the adult figures that have played major roles in the child's life; the lighting of candles signifying an introduction to the Seven African Powers and the principles they represent; sung prayers offered to the Seven African Powers by the presiding priest and choir with drumming; the offering of prayers by the presiding priests, elders, parents, and other adult figures; the releasing of seven, fourteen, or twenty-one doves with prayers for luck, health, wealth, and prosperity; and, if desired, a formal communion with prayers and/or vows as the child assumes responsibility for his or her actions and for the knowledge of the difference between right and wrong.



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The child is dressed in full regalia: girls in gown, veil, lace, and jewels, and boys in tuxedo, to further symbolize the passage into adulthood. After the ceremony, if desired, a reception can follow, complete with a catered meal and a collection of gifts and offerings for the child as he or she steps into the next stage of his or her life.



More Photos

Chris

Clockwise from top left: Professional render of Photolighted candles, Family preparation way to the ceremony, Full ceremony, Family and friend ceremony, Girl during ceremony, LePeristyle II watching ceremony



Each of the candles lit during the ceremony has a profound significance relevant to the development of the child into a young adult. As the ceremony progresses, each of these significances is explained to the child to empower him or her with the principles they embody.



Besides the *Chrismation* itself, what else can be included?



The ceremony can be as formal and elaborate as you wish!

Packages can be tailored to suit your tastes. Limousine services, florists, catering, decorating, banquet hall services, and more can be implemented to create an unforgettable experience, not only for the child, but also for the entire family and everyone else involved.



The ceremony can be held at LePeristyle II, where the first ever such Chrismation was held, or at the banquet hall or venue of your choice. At LePeristyle II, 100-150 guests may witness the rites of passage on the second floor or via live feed on a wide screen television from the first floor.



And it doesn't have to stop after the ceremony is over. Photographers can be contracted to document the entire event, and graphic designers and videographers can also help capture the memories and package them for you in a commemorative decorative picture album, a slide show, or even a full-blown photo documentary movie on DVD.

