

June 21, 1992

Dear Kathleen,

I don't know how old you will be when you will have a chance to read this letter, but I am writing it to you on what is a very important day in your life. Today is the celebration of your baptism.

You are almost two months old, and this is the first time I have had a chance to see you. It is really exciting for to have this special privilege of baptizing you. But in addition to your mom and dad, today is a very exciting time for your four grandparents. For each of them, you are the first grandchild, and I would suspect by the time you are able to read this letter, you will know that you are a very special person - and you will probably be a little bit spoiled.

You have been born into a world at an unusual time. People have a real sense of uncertainty. A year ago, amazing things took place in our world when what was once the country of the Soviet Union suddenly broke apart and the Cold War really came to an end. However, in a few months, people in our own country will be electing a President, and right now, it's hard to say what will happen.

People are worried a lot these days - about jobs, the environment and where everything is going. But you have no idea how your birth has made such a difference. Your mom and dad are wonderful people. I have known your mother all her life, and I still remember when she was very small, she would always crawl away from me. I hope you will be nicer to me. It was a real privilege to witness the wedding of your parents six years ago this October 4th. I know you will make a big difference in their lives as well as in the Hayes and Frey families.

You have two wonderful godparents - Patty Hayes and Tom Frey. I know they will also love you very much in a very special way.

Today, Katie, is your day of Baptism when God shares the gift of life with you which is the most wonderful gift you could ever receive. Later on, Jesus will give you the gift of Himself in Holy Communion and the Holy Spirit will come to you in Confirmation.

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I really hope I can be a part of all these celebrations with you. I really hope also that I can get to know you as you are growing up, even though I live far away from you in a city called Seattle. In fact, when your Mom and Dad were in Seattle last September, we all found out that you were going to be born.

I don't know what the years ahead will be like for you, Katie, but I hope and pray that you will grow up in a world that will be filled with peace. I hope that God will be good to you and watch over you in every way possible. May the years ahead be filled with grace and peace, life and health for you, Katie.

In case you're wondering, Katie, we are celebrating your Baptism on Father's Day, June 21, 1992, at St. Marcelline's Church in Schaumburg, Illinois. Congratulations, Katie, and God bless you.

Your Grand-Uncle,

Tom