

The Sacraments of Eternal Life

The Sacraments of Initiation

The Sacraments

A Review



What is a Sacrament?

- Definition:
Visible signs (words and actions) instituted by Christ that give the grace they signify (CCC 1127)
- Each has a purpose corresponding to the Christian life
- Each has direct roots in the words and actions of Christ

Sacraments of the Church

1. Baptism (new life)
2. Reconciliation (forgiveness)
3. Confirmation (strengthening)
4. Eucharist (nourishment)

Sacraments (cont.)

5. Anointing of the Sick (healing, strengthening)
6. Marriage (service to Christian community)
7. Holy Orders (service to Christian community)

Sacraments (cont.)

Reconciliation
Eucharist
(Anointing)

- Ordinary practice of faith
- Repeatable as needed
- Necessary for healthy spiritual life

Sacraments (cont.)

Baptism
Confirmation
Holy Orders

- Not repeatable
- Indelible character (eternal)

Sacraments (cont.)

Marriage

- Permanent (temporal)

“I will love and honour you all the days of my life...”



Baptism

A New Birth

Creation



- *In the beginning...*
Gn 1-3

Sin

- Turning away from God
- Rupture of relationship
 - God
 - Self
 - Others
 - Creation
- God calls us back (Salvation History)



The Baptism of John



- Sign of conversion → turning back to God
- Cleansing from sin
- Jesus baptised out of solidarity with us

*You are my beloved Son:
with you I am well pleased*
(Lk 3:22)

Symbolism of Baptism

- Baptism: Greek, *to plunge, immerse*
- Symbolizes Easter Mystery:
 - Dying with Christ
 - Being buried with Christ
 - Rising with Christ



Effects of Baptism

- Forgiveness of sins (original and personal)
- Restoration of *imago Dei* (new creation)
- Union with Christ
- Gift of the Holy Spirit



Effects (cont.)

- Birth as child of God (new life)
- Incorporation into Christ, Church
- Indelible character
- Gift of faith





Confirmation

Witnesses of the Gospel

Pentecost

- *And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind... Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them... All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit (Ac 2:2-4)*



Symbolism of Confirmation

- Confirmation: Latin
to strengthen with, to renew
- Zeal of the faith (fire of the Spirit)
- Maturation of faith



Effects of Confirmation

- Perfects Baptismal grace (ccc 1285)
 - More perfectly bound to Church
 - Strengthened with the Holy Spirit
- Commissions for evangelisation (cf. CCC 1319)
 - *Confirmand receives the power to profess faith in Christ publicly and as it were officially (Summa III, 72, 5, ad 2)*

Effects (cont.)

- Strengthens union with Christ
- Perfects the *imago Dei*
- Indelible character

- Increases Gifts of the Spirit (1 Cor 12)
 - wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, fear of the Lord



Eucharist

Food for the Journey

Review of Eucharist

- Last Supper, Cross, Emmaus
 - Christ reveals Himself in the ‘Breaking of the Bread’ and gives Himself to us in the form of bread and wine
- Spiritual nourishment
- Forgiveness of (venial) sins
- Conformity to Christ



Conclusion

- Together Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist are the Sacraments of Initiation
 - Foundations of the Christian life
 - Reflect natural life (birth, maturity, nourishment)
- East vs. West

Questions?

