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)

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

Reconciliation Eucharist (Anointing)

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

Baptism
Confirmation
Holy Orders

- Not repeatable
- Indelible character (eternal)

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

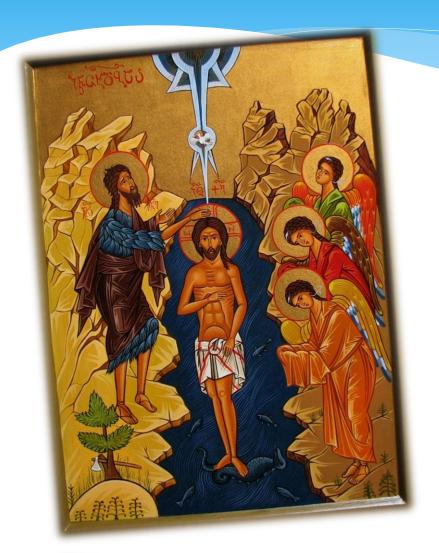
Sin

- 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
- SymbolizesEaster Mystery:
 - Dying with Christ
 - Being buried with Christ
 - Rising with Christ



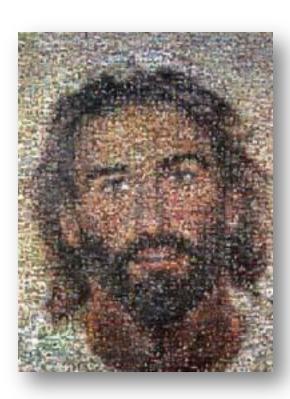
Effects of Baptism

- 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?

