

The Sacraments of Initiation:



BAPTISM



CONFIRMATION



EUCHARIST



This presentation is what I call the “signature talk” of our former Pastor, Fr. Sylvain Casavant

(St. Thomas More Edmonton 2004-2010)

Fr. Sylvain gave this talk to so many over the years that at times he felt like he should
‘change it up’ just to be different!
But the theology doesn’t change with time...and like a grand symphony or a cherished old
song - you never grow tired of hearing it again and again!

D.T. Smigelski
RCIA Coordinator
St. Thomas More, Edmonton

our story begins - 'in the beginning' with the **Genesis story**

Genesis 2:

7 the LORD God formed man out of the clay of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life, and so man became a living being.

8 Then the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and he placed there the man whom he had formed.

9 Out of the ground the LORD God made various trees grow that were delightful to look at and good for food, with the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

15 The LORD God then took the man and settled him in the garden of Eden, to cultivate and care for it.

16 The LORD God gave man this order: "You are free to eat from any of the trees of the garden

17 except the tree of knowledge of good and evil. From that tree you shall not eat; the moment you eat from it you are surely doomed to die."

18 The LORD God said: "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a suitable partner for him."

19 So the LORD God formed out of the ground various wild animals and various birds of the air, and he brought them to the man to see what he would call them; whatever the man called each of them would be its name.

20 The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of the air, and all the wild animals; but none proved to be the suitable partner for the man.

21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.

22 And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.

23 Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken."

24 Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

25 And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed.

GENESIS 3

1 Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the animals that the LORD God had made. The serpent asked the woman, "Did God really tell you not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?"

2 The woman answered the serpent: "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden;

3 it is only about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden that God said, 'You shall not eat it or even touch it, lest you die.'"

4 But the serpent said to the woman: "You certainly will not die!

5 No, God knows well that the moment you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods who know what is good and what is evil."

6 The woman saw that the tree was good for food, pleasing to the eyes, and desirable for gaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized that they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

8 When they heard the sound of the LORD God moving about in the garden at the breezy time of the day, the man and his wife hid themselves from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

9 The LORD God then called to the man and asked him, "Where are you?"

10 He answered, "I heard you in the garden; but I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid myself."

11 Then he asked, "Who told you that you were naked? You have eaten, then, from the tree of which I had forbidden you to eat!"

12 The man replied, "The woman whom you put here with me - she gave me fruit from the tree, so I ate it."

13 The LORD God then asked the woman, "Why did you do such a thing?" The woman answered, "The serpent tricked me into it, so I ate it."

14 Then the LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, you shall be banned from all the animals and from all the wild creatures; On your belly shall you crawl, and dirt shall you eat all the days of your life.

15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; He will strike at your head, while you strike at his heel."

16 To the woman he said: "I will intensify the pangs of your childbearing; in pain shall you bring forth children. Yet your urge shall be for your husband, and he shall be your master."

17 To the man he said: "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree of which I had forbidden you to eat, "Cursed be the ground because of you! In toil shall you eat its yield all the days of your life.

18 Thorns and thistles shall it bring forth to you, as you eat of the plants of the field.

19 By the sweat of your face shall you get bread to eat, Until you return to the ground, from which you were taken; For you are dirt, and to dirt you shall return."

22. Then the LORD God said "See, the man has become like one of us, knowing good & evil; & now, he might reach out his hand & take also from the tree of Life, and eat & live forever"

23 Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the Garden of Eden, to till the ground from which he was taken.

let's take a closer look at
this story



God took dust & “breathed” life into Adam
(breath of God = Holy Spirit)



Eve taken
from the side
of Adam

how many trees in the
middle of the garden??

1. The Tree of Eternal Life



2. The Tree of the Knowledge of Good & Evil

-serpent tempted Adam &
Eve with eating from
Tree of Knowledge of
good & evil

-what gain? ..already walking
with God - already 'knew'
GOOD!

-so 'gain' was to 'know' EVIL!



EVIL = SIN = Separation from God
(the only thing God didn't want for us is separation from Him!)



now Adam & Eve
felt the need to
hide from God
because they
'knew they were
naked'

shame in sin ~ tried to hide
their sin from God

- ◆ their disobedience put them in a “separated” or broken state with God.
- ◆ FREE to choose actions...free will
 - ◆ but BOUND when choose a will contrary to God's!
 - ◆ only really free when choose to follow GOD'S WILL
 - ◆ (note: God never planned for us to be free from temptations...even these were in the Garden of E_den!)

Original SIN = "Fall of Man"

http://www.wizards.com/dnd/images/MM35_gallery/MM35_PG53.jpg



<http://www.artsforge.com/danny/chains.jpg>



Adam & Eve now **BOUND** by their **SIN**

God's curse: 'Love hurts'!



http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/6/64/Millet_Gleaners.jpg/750px-Millet_Gleaners.jpg



<http://www.arlynpillay.com/drawings/birthpains-01.jpg>

God “punished” or “put a curse” upon the woman & man.

Both curses relate to love & procreation.

These would still exist, but in a BROKEN state...not as they should be.

Love & procreation will now ‘hurt’:
planting of seeds in soil & in the womb would result in work & pain in order to get at the joy



Bound by their sin of disobedience, God ejected them from the garden so that they would NOT eat from the *Tree of Eternal Life* while in the “separated” or “broken” state...

or they would be
ETERNALLY SEPARATED...

ETERNALLY BROKEN!

<http://www.popularchildrenstories.com/biblestories/Bible-Story-Adam-and-Eve-0333.htm>

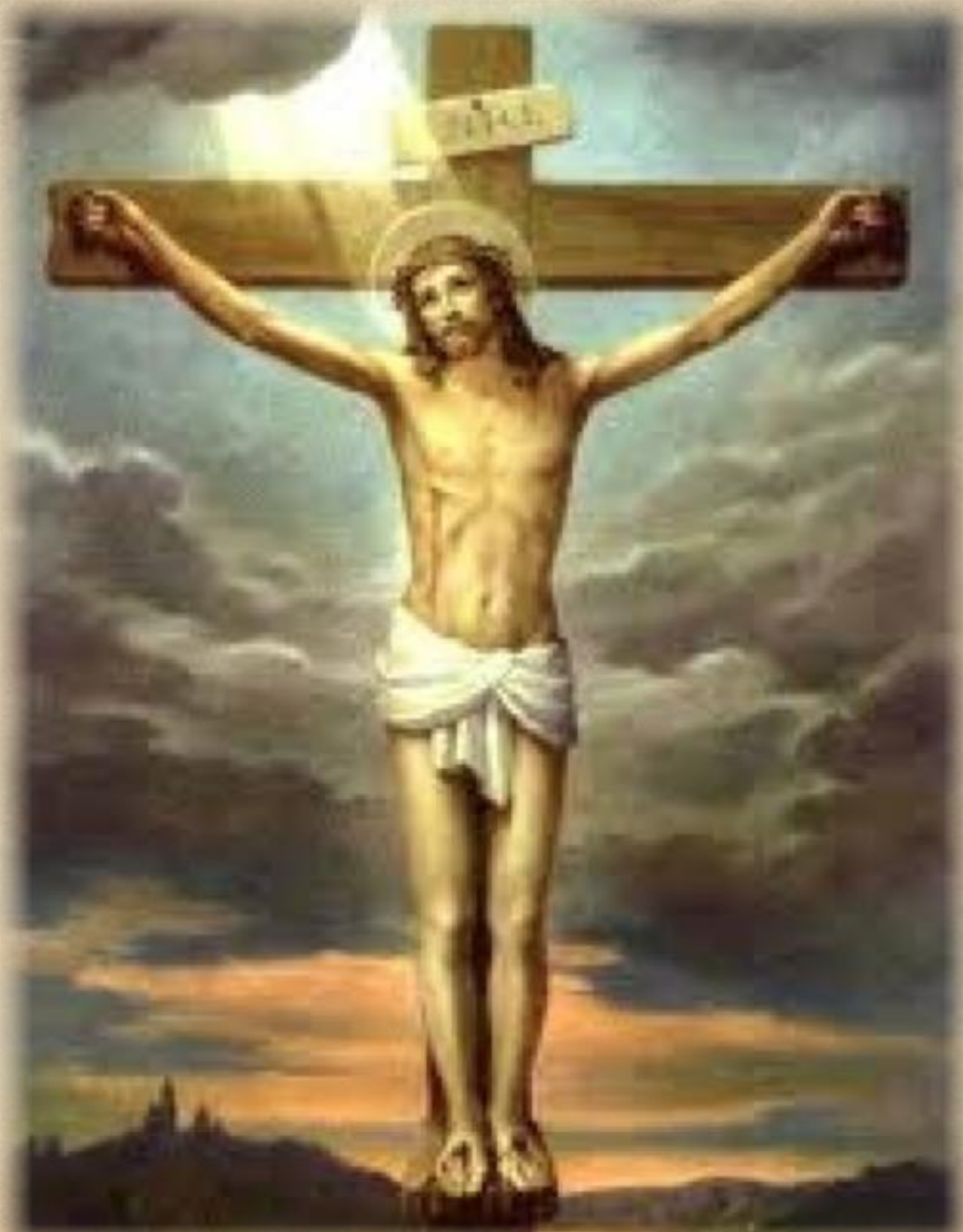
It was a Divine Act of LOVE that God would RESTORE this broken relationship BEFORE He could permit them to eat from the Tree of ETERNAL LIFE



'The Expulsion of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Paradise' Oil on canvas |Source=
<http://www.speedyartonline.com/ProdImages/LDA-7008.JPG> |Date=(1823-1889) |Author=Alexandre Cabanel
|Permission=PD because of age |other_versions)

How does God
RESTORE
this broken
relationship?

in time, God sent His
Son, Jesus, to take on
our sins & take them to
the **CROSS** & die
for our
SALVATION!





The CROSS is the new
“TREE OF
ETERNAL LIFE”

JESUS is the FRUIT
of the Tree of Eternal
life!

Jesus' death on the Cross
restored us back to the
Garden of Eden!

At the Cross (tree of Eternal Life),
Jesus is pierced & **BLOOD** &
WATER flow from his side



when else does BLOOD &
WATER flow from a
human???

when else does BLOOD & WATER flow from a human???...
at **BIRTH!**

At the CROSS, Jesus is
giving BIRTH to HIS
CHURCH!

Jesus on the Tree of Eternal Life is
the NEW ADAM;

Mary, the NEW EVE, is
present;

John, the disciple representing all
of humanity/the Church is
present.





The Blood & Water represent the
Sacrament of BAPTISM
(entry into the Church ~ entry into eternal life with God)

When we join ourselves to God through
Jesus...
when we restore the brokenness
through Baptism...

NOW we can eat of the fruit of the
Tree of Eternal Life!
Jesus Christ in the

EUCCHARIST!
Body & Blood

Sacrament of
Holy Eucharist





http://stnoufer.files.wordpress.com/2010/05/holy_spirit.jpg



When Jesus breathed His last, He sent out the
HOLY SPIRIT on Mary & John &
all they represented....
the Church...

Jesus' breath is the sending forth of the
HOLY SPIRIT in the

Sacrament of CONFIRMATION



The Holy Spirit is also seen as
tongues of FIRE sent upon His Church
at Pentecost ~ thus giving them the
POWER from on high!

As our former Pastor, Fr. Sylvain Casavant, was fond of saying:
“on the 1st page of the Bible, we are in the Garden with God;
on the next page, we’ve fallen out of the Garden;
and for the whole rest of the Bible, God is trying to get us back
into the Garden with Him!”

Our Journey back into the Garden with God begins with
The Sacraments of Initiation:

BAPTISM
CONFIRMATION
HOLY EUCHARIST

BAPTISM

means PLUNGING!...into death & resurrection of Christ

double action: Christ goes **DOWN**;
Christ **RISES**

"Therefore we have been buried with Him in baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead so we too might walk in newness of life" *Rom 6:6-7*

"...consider yourselves dead to sin & alive to God in Christ Jesus" *Rom 6: 9-11*



Harrison

beginning of a **RELATIONSHIP**

Baptism confers the **PERMANENT & IRREVOCABLE**
character of Christ *(therefore...only ONCE)*

Baptism is a SIGN of SALVATION given by Christ to bring us into the Kingdom of God *(thus a 'SACRAMENT')*

- gift of the Spirit is present as one 'enters into Christ' at baptism

"For all who are led by the Spirit of God are called children of God...it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are

children of God,

& if children then, heirs, heirs of God &

joint heirs with Christ - if in fact we *suffer* with

Him so that we may also be

glorified with Him" Rom 8:14-17



we become adopted sons & daughters of God Our Father,
thus, **Jesus - our brother!**

BAPTISM

what happens during Baptism?

recall "SACRAMENT" - **visible** sign
of **invisible** Grace given by God
...it doesn't just tell us about
something
...it **makes the event HAPPEN.**



*I Baptize you in the name
of The Father...*



...and of The Son...



...and of the Holy Spirit...



AMEN!

sign
(pouring of water)

+

the form
*(I baptize you in the name of the
Father & of the Son & of the
Holy Spirit)*

= washed **CLEAN** of sin &
RECONCILED to God

new creation with a new life - The Holy Spirit
in you, who makes a home in you & gives
you the POWER to KNOW God and to DO
all that God requires

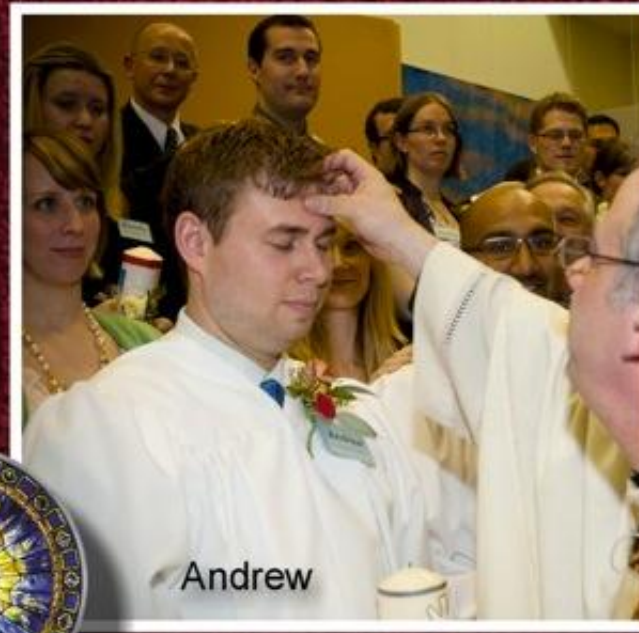
"Christians are not born, they are made" *(thus the preparation)*

Confirmation

recall the
Pentecost event...

Acts 2:1-4

*we move from being
'wet babies' in the
baptismal font to being
ADULTS in the faith...
ready to DEFEND the
faith...to the death if
required!..given
POWER to bear fruit
in our Christian lives
so as to draw others
into the Church*



Peace
be
with
you



and
also
with
you!

*Confirmation confers the courage & the GIFTS of the Holy
Spirit which allow us to defend the faith...to be ADULTS*

Confirmation involves the laying on of hands AND anointing with oil...

Sign

form

*be sealed
with the Gift
of the Holy
Spirit*



Heather



MaryAnne



*wisdom
courage
understanding*



Lyle



Patricia T.

right judgment

*Oil of Chrism: olive oil mixed with
balsam
...the fragrance of Christ!*

*"Messiah" & "Christ"
=
"anointed one"*

Holy Spirit in Baptism; Holy Spirit in
Confirmation - same spirit; different
function

St. Augustine: *in baptism we
are mixed with water so that
we might take on the form of
bread, the body of Christ.
But bread needs to be baked
in FIRE...
...tongues of fire*



Confirmation means **STRENGTHENING**

Confirmation - the Sacrament of Social action

ordinary minister = Bishop (exception: priest involved with RCIA)

matter & form?

As our former Pastor, Fr. Sylvain Casavant, was fond of saying:
“on the 1st page of the Bible, we are in the Garden with God;
on the next page, we’ve fallen out of the Garden;
and for the whole rest of the Bible, God is trying to get us back
into the Garden with Him!”

Our Journey back into the Garden with God begins with
The Sacraments of Initiation:

BAPTISM
CONFIRMATION
HOLY EUCHARIST

Baptism

Means **PLUNGING!...**into **death & resurrection** of Christ

- Double action:
- Christ goes **DOWN**;
 - Christ **RISES**.

“Therefore we have been buried with Him in baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead so we too might walk in newness of life”

Rom 6: 6-7

“...consider yourselves dead to sin & alive to God in Christ Jesus” *Rom 6: 9-11*

Beginning of a **RELATIONSHIP**

Baptism confers the **PERMANENT & IRREVOCABLE** character of Christ
(therefore...only **ONCE**)

Baptism is a **SIGN OF SALVATION** given by Christ to bring us into the Kingdom of God *(thus a 'Sacrament')*

Gift of the **Spirit** is present as one 'enters into Christ' at baptism

*"For all who are led by the Spirit of God are called children of God... it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are **children of God**, & if children then, heirs, heirs of God & **joint heirs with Christ** – if in fact we **suffer** with Him so that we may also be **glorified with Him**"* Rom 8:14-17

We become adopted sons & daughters of God our Father, thus, **Jesus – our brother!**

What happens during Baptism?

Recall **“SACRAMENT”** – visible sign of invisible

Grace given by God

...it doesn't just tell us about something

...it makes the event HAPPEN

Sign (*pouring of water*)

+

The form (*I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit*)

= washed CLEAN of sin & RECONCILED to God

New creation with a new life – The **Holy Spirit** in you, who makes a home in you & gives you the **POWER** to **KNOW** God & to **DO** all that God requires

“Christians are not born, they are made” (thus the preparation)

CONFIRMATION

Recall the **Pentecost** event....

Confirmation completes the grace communicated at baptism...

It binds the baptized more completely to the Church
& strengthens them with the **Holy Spirit** (CCC 1285)

- *We move from being 'wet babies' in the baptismal font to being ADULTS in the faith...*
- *ready to **DEFEND** the faith... to the death if required!*
- *given **POWER** to bear fruit in our Christian lives so as to draw others into the Church.*

*Confirmation confers the courage & the **GIFTS of the Holy Spirit** which allow us to defend the faith...to be ADULTS*

Confirmation involves the laying on of hands AND anointing with oil...

Oil of Chrism: olive oil mixed with balsam...
'the fragrance of Christ'

Sign or "matter"

"Messiah" & "Christ" = "anointed one"

"be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit"

Holy Spirit in Baptism – Holy Spirit in Confirmation
Same spirit; different function!

form

St. Augustine: *in baptism we are mixed with water so that we might take on the form of bread, the body of Christ.*
But bread needs to be baked in FIRE...tongues of fire!

Confirmation means **STRENGTHENING**
'sacrament of Social Action'

Ordinary minister = BISHOP (exception: priest involved with RCIA)

Discussion

Baptism:

- Read Romans 6:4-11 & discuss
- Have you ever had to take a plunge into something risky?
- Name one part of your life that would change if you died to sin and lived for God
- What would a 'new life in Christ' be for you?

Confirmation:

- Read Acts 1:8 & Acts 2:1-4 & Acts 8:14-17 discuss
- After the Holy Spirit came upon them they immediately went out to preach the good news. How do you feel about talking to people about your faith?
- Read Matthew 10:19-20 for further encouragement to speak about your faith!*

Gifts of the Holy Spirit: *Name a person you believe shows these gifts; which do you need most in your life right now?*

- Wisdom
- Understanding
- Right judgment
- Courage
- Knowledge
- Reverence
- Wonder & awe