

# An Introduction to the Sacraments



What is a  
Sacrament?

# What is a Sacrament?

- An efficacious sign of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us through the work of the Holy Spirit.  
(CCC)
- “An outward sign instituted by Christ to give grace”  
(Trese)

# What is a Sacrament?

- “An efficacious sign of grace”
  - Some gift from God is given to us through the sacraments
  - Since it is a grace, these gifts bring us closer to God.

# What is a Sacrament?

- “ . . . instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church . . . ”
- The sacraments were given to us, the Church, by Christ himself.
- It is up to the Bishops and Priests to dispense the sacraments to the people of God in order to pass on the Faith.

# What is a Sacrament?

- “. . . by which divine life is dispensed to us through the work of the Holy Spirit.”
  - God grants these gifts through his ministers, (who have been given the gifts of the Holy Spirit) to his people.

What are the  
Sacraments?

# What are the Sacraments?

- Baptism
- Confirmation
- Eucharist
- Reconciliation
- Anointing of the Sick
- Holy Matrimony
- Holy Orders

# Baptism

- The first of the seven sacraments, and the “door” which gives access to the other sacraments. (CCC)
- The rite of Baptism consists in immersing the candidate in water, or pouring water on the head while pronouncing the invocation of the Most Holy Trinity.
  - “I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

# Baptism

- Why is it first?
  - We receive the grace to receive other graces from the Sacrament of Baptism.
- How was it instituted?
  - Christ was Baptized by John the Baptist. But, this sacrament was given over to the Apostles on the day of Pentecost.

# Baptism

- What do we receive from Baptism?
  - The grace to receive other graces
  - New life in Christ
  - Entrance as a member into the Church
  - Forgiveness of all sins

# Confirmation

- One of the Sacraments of Initiation into the Church. Confirmation completes the graces of Baptism by a special outpouring of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which seal or “confirm” the baptized in union with Christ and equip them for active participation in the worship and apostolic life of the Church. (CCC)

# Confirmation

- What does that mean?
  - Full members of the Church (after receiving the sacrament of the Eucharist)
  - The ability to participate in certain ministries in the community
  - Your faith life now is your own to nourish and grow, but the community is always there to help along the way

# Confirmation

- What do we get from Confirmation?
  - Completion of the gifts received from the Holy Spirit at Baptism
  - Full membership into the Church
- How was it instituted?
  - Christ called down the Holy Spirit on the Apostles at Pentecost, enabling the Apostles to do tremendous things.

# Eucharist

- The ritual, sacramental action of thanksgiving to God which constitutes the principal Christian liturgical celebration of and communion in the paschal mystery of Christ. Holy Eucharist completes Christian initiation. The Sunday celebration is at the heart of the Church's life. (CCC)

# Eucharist

- What does that mean?
  - Holy Communion is a big deal.
  - Holy Communion is the source and summit of our Faith.
  - Everything in our faith is centered around the Sacrifice of the Altar.

# Eucharist

- What do we get from the Eucharist?
  - Jesus
  - Communion with Christ and one another
  - A source of healing
  - Completion of Initiation
- How was it instituted?
  - Holy Thursday of Holy Week, Christ instituted the Eucharist at the Last Supper the night before he was crucified.

# Reconciliation

- The sacramental celebration in which, through God's mercy and forgiveness, the sinner is reconciled with God and also with the Church, Christ's Body, which is wounded by sin.

# Reconciliation

- What does this mean?
  - We are all sinners, which means we make mistakes
  - The sacrament of Confession is a way for us as sinners to confess to God, through the priest, and receive forgiveness and absolution for our sins.
- What do we receive form Reconciliation?
  - Reunion for God
  - Reunion with the Church
  - Absolution from our sins

# Reconciliation

- How was it instituted?
  - On Pentecost, Christ told his Apostles which ever sins they forgave would be forgiven, and which ever sins they retained would be retained.

# Anointing of the Sick

- A sacrament administered by a priest to a baptized person who begins to be in danger of death because of illness or old age, through prayer and the anointing of the body with the oil of the sick. (CCC)

# Anointing of the Sick

- What does that mean?
  - Grace and comfort are given to the recipient of the sacrament
  - Used to heal the soul of the person
- What do we get from the Sacrament?
  - The proper effects of the sacrament include a special grace of healing and comfort to the Christian who is suffering the infirmities of serious illness or old age, and the forgiving of the person's sins. (CCC)

# Anointing of the Sick

- How was it instituted?
  - This comes from Christ healing sick people from his public ministries on earth
  - The Epistle of St. James
    - James tells us to pray over and anoint sick people

# Holy Matrimony

- A covenant or partnership of life between a man and woman, which is ordered to the well-being of the spouses and to the procreation and upbringing of children. When validly contracted between two baptized people, marriage is a sacrament. (CCC)

# Holy Matrimony

- What does that mean?
  - Marriage is a sacred bond between one man and one woman
  - Marriage is for the betterment of the man and the woman, but it is also to bring new life into this world
- What do we receive from marriage?
  - Love
  - Children
  - A better understanding of the Trinity

# Holy Matrimony

- How was it instituted?
  - When God created man, he made them male and female
  - He made woman from a rib of Adam, for them to be a unit

# Holy Orders

- The Sacrament of Apostolic Ministry by which the mission entrusted by Christ to his Apostles continues to be exercised in the Church through the laying on of hands. (CCC)
- What does this mean?
  - The order of Deacon, Priest, and Bishop are passed down from Christ and the Apostles themselves to today's ministers in order to continue on the Church.

# Holy Orders

- A difference between this Sacrament and the others
  - There are three different “ranks” of this Sacrament
    - Deacon
    - Priest
    - Bishop

# Holy Orders

- What do we receive from Holy Orders?
  - Priests, Deacons, and Bishops
  - For those who receive the Sacrament
    - Faculties to perform certain ministries and promises of celibacy, obedience, and simplicity of life.
  - Union to Christ
  - A bridge linking Earth to Heaven

# Holy Orders

- When was this instituted?
  - The Episcopacy was established at the Last Supper
  - The Diaconate was established a little later when the Early Church began to grow, and the Apostles were traveling more than they first did. (cf. Acts of the Apostles)
  - The priesthood developed later as well. (cf. Letters of Clement and Ignatius, 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> Century A.D.)