

## Catholicism 101-

### Class #4- Accessing God: A Guide to the Sacraments of the Catholic Church

#### Sacrament- Outward sign instituted by Christ to give grace.

Sacramental grace

- Participating in the divine life of God which helps our salvation
- Grace of the Holy Spirit given by Christ proper to each Sacrament
- “This grace helps the faithful in their journey toward holiness and so assists the Church as well to grow in charity and in her witness to the World.”

Characteristics of a Sacrament

- Instituted by Christ
- Entrusted to the Church
- Efficacious signs of grace perceptible to the senses/Outward Signs
- “What was visible in our Savior, has passed over into mysteries.” -St. Leo the Great
- “A foretaste of eternal life”
- “From Her”- Actions of the Church
- “For Her”- They build up the Church

Seven Sacraments

Baptism

Confirmation

Eucharist

Penance

Anointing of the Sick

Holy Orders

Matrimony

All Sacraments are ordered to the Holy Eucharist “as their end.”

Initiation

Baptism

Confirmation

Eucharist

Healing

Penance

Anointing of the Sick

At the Service of Communion and Mission

Holy Orders

Marriage

Sacramental Character/Received Once

- Configured to Christ
- Set apart for worship and service

Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi

- The law of prayer (dictates) the law of belief
- We believe as we pray

Ex Opere Operato

- From it's working, it is always effective
- By the very fact that the sacramental action is performed
- Efficacy does not depend on the personal holiness of the minister (Donatism)
- Fruits of the sacrament do depend on the disposition of the one receiving

## **SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION**

"Born in Baptism, strengthened by Confirmation, nourished by the Eucharist"

### **BAPTISM (CCC 1213-1284)**

- baptize=immerse/Greek "baptizein" meaning to plunge or immerse
- immersed into the death of Christ and rises with him as a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- "Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit and the door which gives access to the other sacraments." (CCC 1213)
- Effects of baptism
  - Freed from sin
  - Reborn as sons and daughters of God
  - We become members of Christ
  - Are incorporated in the Church
  - Made sharers in the mission of the Church
- Prefigurements to Baptism
  - Genesis- "breathes on the waters"
  - Noah
  - Red Sea
  - Crossing the Jordan
- Why infant baptism?
  - CCC 1250-1252
  - "The Church and the parents would deny a child the priceless grace of becoming a child of God were they not to confer Baptism shortly after birth." (1250)
  - Acts 16, Acts 18, I Corinthians 1

### **CONFIRMATION (CCC 1285-1321)**

- "the necessary completion of baptismal grace" (1285)
- "by the Sacrament of Confirmation, the baptized are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed."
- A Sacrament of the Holy Spirit- Isaiah 61, Acts 2

-Anointing with Chrism- oil as a sign of “abundance and joy”- it cleanses, limbers, heals, soothes, and makes radiant.

-“By this anointing the confirmand received the ‘mark,’ the seal of the Holy Spirit. A seal is symbol of a person, a sign of personal authority, or ownership of an object. Hence soldiers were marked with their leader’s seal and slaves with their master’s. A seal authenticates a juridical act or document and occasionally makes it secret.” (CCC 1295)

-Effects of Confirmation

-Outpouring of the Holy Spirit

-An increase and deepening of baptismal grace

-Roots us more deeply in our affection for God

-Unites us more firmly to Christ

-Increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit

-Renders our bond with the Church more perfect

-Gives a special strength to spread and defend the faith by word and action

## **EUCCHARIST (CCC 1322-1419)**

-“The holy Eucharist completes Christian initiation.” (1322)

-The Eucharist is “the source and summit of the Christian life”

-In the Eucharist we “unite ourselves with the heavenly liturgy and anticipate eternal life.”

-Eucharist=eucharistein=thanksgiving

-Names

-Breaking of the Bread

-A Memorial

-The Holy Sacrifice

-Holy and Divine Liturgy

-The Blessed Sacrament

-Holy Communion

-Bread of Angels/Bread from Heaven

-Viaticum

-Holy Mass

-Scripture

-Luke 22/Matthew 26/Mark 14

-John 6

-I Corinthians 11

-Early Church (CCC 1345- St. Justin Martyr)

-Fruits of Holy Communion

-Helps our union with Christ

-Preserves, increases, and renews the life of grace received at Baptism

-Separates us from sin

-Strengthens our charity

-Wipes away venial sins

-Preserves us from future mortal sins

-Unites us with the larger Church

-Commits us to the poor

-“Every time this mystery is celebrated, ‘the work of our redemption is carried on’ and we ‘break the one bread that provides the medicine of immortality, the antidote for death, and the food that makes us live for ever in Jesus Christ.’ (1405)

### **PENANCE (1422-1498)**

-“Those who approach the sacrament of Penance obtain pardon from God’s mercy for the offense committed against him, and are, at the same time, reconciled with the Church which they have wounded by their sins and which by charity, for example, and by prayers labors for their conversion.” (CCC 1422)

-Names for the sacrament

-Sacrament of Conversion

-Sacrament of Penance

-Sacrament of Confessions

-Sacrament of Forgiveness

-Sacrament of Reconciliation

-John 20- “Those who sins you forgive are forgiven...”

-The Words of Absolution

“God the Father of mercies, through the death and resurrection of his Son has reconciled the world to himself and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins; through the ministry of the Church may God give you pardon and peace, and I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

-Effects of the Sacrament

-Restores our relationship with God

-“Peace and serenity of conscience with strong spiritual consolation” (CCC 1468)

-Reconciles us with the Church

### **ANOINTING OF THE SICK (1499-1532)**

-“By the sacred anointing of the sick and the prayer of the priests the whole Church commends those who are ill to the suffering and glorified Lord, that he may raise them up and save them.” (CCC 1499)

-James 5

-“The sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is given to those who are seriously ill by anointing them on the forehead and hands with duly blessed oil - pressed from olives or from other plants - saying, only once: ‘Through this holy anointing may the Lord in his love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit. May the Lord who frees you from sin save you and raise you up.’” (CCC 1513)

-Effects of the Sacrament

-Strengthening of the Holy Spirit, peace, courage to overcome the difficulties that go with the condition of serious illness or the frailty of old age

-Union with the passion of Christ

-Grace through the prayers of the Church and the saints

-A preparation for the final journey

-The most proper sacrament for the dying is The Holy Eucharist

## **HOLY ORDERS (1536-1600)**

-“Holy Orders is the sacrament through which the mission entrusted by Christ to his apostles continues to be exercised in the Church until the end of time; thus it is the sacrament of apostolic ministry. It includes three degrees: episcopate, presbyterate, and diaconate.” (CCC 1536)

-Old Testament roots

-The One Priesthood of Christ with two ways to participate in it (priesthood of the baptized/ministerial priesthood)

-Episcopal ordination- The fullness of the sacrament of Holy Orders

-Ordination of priests- “co-workers of the bishops”

-Ordination of deacons- “in order to serve”

-Effects of the sacrament

-Reception of a special grace of the Holy Spirit

-An indelible spiritual character (like baptism and confirmation)

## **MATRIMONY (CCC 1601-1666)**

-“The matrimonial covenant, by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole of life, is by nature ordered toward the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring; this covenant between baptized persons has been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament” (CCC 1601)

-In Scripture- Genesis, Revelation, I Corinthians, Ephesians 5, Matthew 19

-“According to the Latin tradition, the spouses as ministers of Christ’s grace mutually confer upon each other the sacrament of Matrimony by expressing their consent before the Church.” (CCC 1623)

-Effects of the Sacrament

-strengthened bond between the spouses

-consecrated for the duties given

-grace to perfect the couple’s love and to strengthen their indissoluble unity

-Two purposes of marriage

-Unitive

-Procreative

## **Future Talks**

Talk #5 July 26- A Cloud of Witnesses- Saints in the Life of the Church

Talk #6 August 2- How to be Happy: The Moral Life

Talk #7 August 9- Catholicism and the World: Catholic Social Teaching

## **Also “A Walk Through the Catechism”- Part I on The Creed**

July 28- 9:30am

August 4- 9:30am (Mass at 9am for 1st Saturday)