

2021-2022 RCIA #16

1/24/22

Part III: The Sacraments and Prayer (Chapter 23)

The Sacraments

- We Begin the Sacraments
- Why Seven Sacraments?

The Sacraments

- This will be a transition from what we understand that we should do in light of what we believe (Commandments) to how we are able to do it (Sacraments)
- The ability to live in accordance with God's Plan which comes about through the receipt of God's Grace
- Since God respects our free will He allows us to choose or reject His Grace
- Jesus paid the price for our sins on the cross and established the means to funnel God's Grace (His love) to mankind

The Sacraments (Cont)

- What is grace?
 - The free and undeserved gift (love) that God gives us to respond to our vocation to become His adopted children
 - **Sanctifying grace** – a stable and supernatural disposition that enables the soul to live with God and to act by his love
 - **Actual grace** – help to conform our lives to His will
 - **Sacramental grace** – gifts of the Holy Spirit to help us live out our Christian vocation

The Sacraments (Cont)

- Since man is both physical and spiritual Jesus chose to send His Grace in both worlds, the visible and the invisible
- Jesus took common things from the world that we can receive via our senses to help us receive His Grace
- These signs are the Sacraments

The Sacraments (Cont)

- What is a sacrament?
 - A sacrament is an **outward sign instituted by Christ to give Grace**
 - Each sacrament consists of the above three components

The Sacraments (Cont)

- An **outward sign** – something we can perceive with our bodies usually through words and gestures. It is the physical part of the sacrament and it contains **two parts**:
 - **Matter** – the “thing” used in the sacrament - such as water in Baptism
 - **Form** – the gesture or words that distinguish the matter - such as “In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”

The Sacraments (Cont)

- **Instituted by Christ**

- From the beginning of his public ministry to his resurrection He instituted seven sacraments
- No new sacraments have been added or deleted since that time
- Although Jesus specified the exact manner and form for Baptism and Eucharist the others were clarified by His Church

The Sacraments (Cont)

- **To give Grace** – each sacrament provides **sanctifying grace** beginning with Baptism
- Penance restores sanctifying grace to the soul cut off by mortal sin
- The other five sacraments give and increase sanctifying grace
- Each sacrament also gives **sacramental grace** which is keyed to each specific need in our natural life

The Sacraments (Cont)

- The **seven** Sacraments serve as sign posts along the pilgrimage of life and are closely related to the passages we go through in our natural progression of life
 - **Baptism** – right after birth, initiation, opens the soul for grace, places a permanent mark or character on the soul
 - **Penance** – after reaching the age of reason usually in the 2nd grade – medicine for the soul

The Sacraments (Cont)

- **Holy Eucharist** – after reaching the age of reason usually in the 2nd grade – food for the soul
- **Confirmation** – as a youth usually in the 8th grade – builds on baptism, places a permanent mark or character on the soul
- **Matrimony** – as an adult – enables two people to become one
- **Holy Orders** – as an adult – places a permanent mark on the soul
- **Anointing of the sick** – anytime in life when illness or when in danger of death, especially for the elderly

The Sacraments (Cont)

- Three sacraments focus on **initiation**:
 - **Baptism** – born again with sanctifying grace
 - **Confirmation** – strengthened by more grace
 - **Eucharist** – sustained by the food for the soul
- Four sacraments focus on **living**:
 - **Penance**
 - **Matrimony**
 - **Holy Orders**
 - **Sacrament of the Sick**

The Sacraments (Cont)

- Who can administer each sacrament?
 - Baptism
 - Penance
 - Eucharist
 - Confirmation
 - Matrimony
 - Holy Orders
 - Sacrament of the Sick

Part III: The Sacraments and Prayer (Chapter 24)

- Baptism
 - The Beginning of Life
 - The Mark of a Christian
 - Getting Baby Baptized
 - Before Childbirth and After
 - The Birth of a Soul
 - Who Can Baptize?

Baptism (Cont)

- Biblical Basis for the Sacrament of Baptism:
 - Matthew 3:13-17*
 - Mark 1:9-11
 - Luke 3:21-22
 - John 1:29-34

Baptism (Cont)

- The beginning of life
 - Newborns arrive with a soul which is supernaturally dead due to the sin of Adam and Eve
 - The original plan – a union with God to the Beatific vision
 - Loss of preternatural gifts and the mark left on the soul
 - This should be seen as the absence of something rather than a black mark

Baptism (Cont)

- Baptism – the birth of a soul:
 - Restores the soul to the light of God (exorcism)
 - Necessary for receipt of the other sacraments
 - Eliminates original and, in older children or adults, personal sin and temporal punishments
 - Does not restore the preternatural gifts, it only opens heaven for us
 - Leaves a permanent mark on the soul which guarantees that even if we cut ourselves off from God via mortal sin we can return through the other sacraments

Baptism (Cont)

- What items are needed to celebrate a Roman Catholic baptism?
 - Parents
 - Child
 - God parents
 - Priest/Bishop/Deacon
 - Holy Water (Blesses)
 - Chrism
 - Candle representing the light of Christ
 - White linen garment to represent the white robe worn by the early Christians
- Remember, anyone may baptize in an emergency

Baptism (Cont)

- The sacrament of Baptism uses:
 - White linen garment to represent the white robe worn by the early Christians
 - Candle representing the light of Christ
 - Blessed water
 - Godparents
- Anyone may baptize in an emergency

Part III: The Sacraments and Prayer (Chapter 25)

- Confirmation
 - The Sacrament of Confirmation
 - The Meaning of Confirmation

Confirmation

- Confirmation - The sacrament for young adults:
 - Confirms us spiritually
 - As we are born and then grow up
 - So we are born spiritually and then grow up and need to be confirmed spiritually
 - Strengthens and deepens the faith
 - Calls us to share in Christ's role as teacher and prophet
 - Calls us to become soldiers for Christ

Confirmation (Cont)

- Calls us to become joyful defenders of the faith and ardent lovers for other souls
- Comes from Sacred Tradition when in Acts the Apostles laid their hands on the baptized making it distinct from baptism (Acts 2:11;17-18)
- Provides additional sanctifying and sacramental graces
- Is normally administered in the U.S. Church by a bishop to those who have reached the 8th or 9th grade

Confirmation (Cont)

- The sacrament takes place within the Mass:
 - Candidates are called forward and prayed over by the bishop
 - Candidates repeat their baptismal promises
 - The bishop anoints their forehead with Holy Chrism (one of three sacred oils) calling them by their confirmation name while their sponsor places a hand on their shoulder
 - Discuss the tradition of the Bishop slapping each candidate

Next Week

- We will begin a three class examination of the Eucharist within the Mass