

# 2023-2024 RCIA #15

1/8/24

# 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 2<sup>nd</sup> grade – medicine for the soul

# The Sacraments (Cont)

- **Holy Eucharist** – after reaching the age of reason usually in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade – food for the soul
- **Confirmation** – as a youth usually in the 8<sup>th</sup> 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)

- 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

## 18. The Baptism of Jesus

Matt. 3.13-17 17.5	Mark 1.9-11 9.7	Luke 3.21-22 9.35	John 1.29-34 12.28-30
<p><i>(no. 16 3.11-12 p. 14)</i></p> <p>13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. 14 John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" 15 But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness." Then he consented.</p> <p>16 And when Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened* and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him;</p> <p>17 and lo, a voice from heaven, saying,</p> <p>21 "This is my beloved Son,<sup>h</sup> with whom I am well pleased."</p> <p><i>(no. 20 4.1-11 p. 19)</i></p> <p>17.5 <i>(no. 161, p. 152)</i></p> <p>27 <sup>g</sup>He was still speaking, when lo, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said,</p>	<p><i>(no. 16 1.7-8 p. 14)</i></p> <p>9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee</p> <p>and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opened and the Spirit descending upon him like a dove;</p> <p>11 and a voice came from heaven,</p> <p>"Thou art my beloved Son;<sup>d</sup> with thee I am well pleased."</p> <p><i>(no. 20 1.12-13 p. 19)</i></p> <p>9.7 <i>(no. 161, p. 152)</i></p> <p><sup>g</sup>And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud,</p>	<p>21 Now when all the people were baptized,</p> <p>and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, 22 and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form, as a dove,</p> <p>and a voice came from heaven,</p> <p>"Thou art my beloved Son;<sup>j</sup> with thee I am well pleased."<sup>k</sup></p> <p>9.35 <i>(no. 161, p. 152)</i></p> <p><sup>g</sup>And a voice came out of the cloud, saying,</p>	<p><i>(no. 16 1.24-28 p. 14)</i></p> <p>29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" 30 This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, for he was before me.' 31 I myself did not know him; but for this I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel."</p> <p>32 And John bore witness, "I saw the Spirit descend as a dove from heaven, and it remained on him. 33 I myself did not know him; but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' 34 And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."</p> <p><i>(no. 21 1.35-51 p. 21)</i></p> <p>12.28-30 <i>(no. 302, p. 271)</i></p> <p><sup>g</sup>"Father, glorify thy name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."</p>

**Matt.:** 13 cometh Jesus A R | to Jordan A | of him A R | 14 forbad him A | would have hindered him R | have need A R | of thee A R | 15 Suffer it (+ to be so A) now A R | it becometh us A R | he suffered (suffereth R) him. A R | 16 he – A R | straightway A R | out of the A | and lo A R | opened unto him A R | as a dove R | lighting upon A | coming upon R | 17 out of the heavens R | in whom A R

**Mark:** 9 And it came to pass in A R | days that A R | of John A R | the – A | 10 straightway coming up A R | immediately – A R | rent asunder R | as a dove R | 11 And there came a voice A | came out of the heavens R | + saying A | in whom A | in thee R

**Luke:** 21 now it came to pass when R (- A) | that, Jesus also having been (being A) baptized, and praying, A R | 22 Ghost A R | descended in a bodily shape (form R) like (as R) a dove upon him A R | out of R | heaven + which said A | in thee A R

**John:** 29 On the morrow R | John (he R) seeth A R | coming unto A R | 30 man which is preferred (become R) before A R | 31 myself – A R | know him; but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come (for this cause came I R) baptizing A R | 32 bare A R | record A | saying I A R | have beheld R | descending A R | abide A R | 33 myself – A R | the same (he R) said A R | Upon whom (whomsoever R) A R | descending and remaining on (abiding upon R) him, the same is A R | Ghost A | 34 I saw and bare record A

**Matt.:** g Other ancient authorities add to him || h Or my Son, my (or the) Beloved || 17: Mt. 12.18; Ps. 2.7; Is. 42.1

**Mark:** d Or my Son, my (or the) Beloved || 11: Ps. 2.7; Is. 42.1

**Luke:** j Or my Son, my (or the) Beloved || k Other ancient authorities read today I have begotten thee || 21: Lk. 5.16; 6.12; 9.18; 9.28; 11.1; Mk. 1.35 || 22: Ps. 2.7; Is. 42.1; Acts 10.38; 2Pet. 1.17

**John:** 29: Jn. 1.36; Is. 53.7; Acts 8.32; 1Pet. 1.19; Rev. 5.6; 1Jn. 3.5 || 30: Jn. 1.15

# 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

# 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 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> 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