**The 7 Holy Sacraments**

*Sacrament: an outward sign given to us by Christ to fill us with His life and love*

Sacraments of Initiation

The roots of the Holy Spirit are in the Old and New Testaments.

**Vocabulary:**

Catechumen: a person who is studying to become a Catholic/Christian

Neophyte: new Catholic

RCIA: Right of Christian Initiation of Adults

**7 Sacraments:**

1. Baptism
2. Penance
3. Eucharist
4. Confirmation
5. Matrimony
6. Holy Orders
7. Anointing of the Sick

**Baptism – "plunge/immerse" (Greek)**

Usual minister of this sacrament: priest, but anyone can perform a baptism in an emergency

Ways to Receive Baptism:

* Water (traditional way)
* Blood (if you die for your faith)
* Desire (if you or someone else really and truly desired that you be baptized)

Rite of Baptism:

1. Name
2. Anointing w/ chrism (holy oil) – represents total consecration to Christ
3. **Essential: pouring of water AND words**
4. Baptismal vows (your parents say them if you are a baby)
5. Lighting of the baptismal candle (receive the light of Christ)
6. Baptismal robe (putting on Christ)

Effects of Baptism:

* Become a child of God
* Original Sin is wiped away
* We become heirs of Heaven

**Eucharist – "Thanksgiving" (Greek)**

* provides nourishment for our souls
* unites us to Christ's sacrifice on the cross
* we become more like Christ
* we become bread for others - sharing it by the way we live
* transubstantiation: "change" - to change the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ

**Confirmation**

Usual minister of this sacrament: bishop/archbishop (but priest can do it if need be)

Rite of Confirmation:

1. Renewal of baptismal vows
2. Laying on of hands
3. Anointing w/ chrism (holy oil) – represents total consecration to Christ
4. Sign of peace

Effects of Confirmation:

* Full outpouring of the Holy Spirit
* Binds us more closely to Christ and the Church
* Increase in the gifts of the Holy Spirit (which we received originally at Baptism)
* Puts an indelible mark on our souls
* Seals Christians with the Holy Spirit, giving them the power to witness to God

Sacraments of Healing

**Anointing of the Sick**

* God shows His compassion through the healing ministry
* “Extreme unction” = last anointing (Latin), last rites
* Used to be only for people who were about to die
* Can only be administered by a priest (deacons can’t hear confession)

Vatican Council II decided this sacrament is for:

* Those suffering w/ serious illness
* The elderly
* Those facing major surgery
* The dying

Rite:

1. Laying on of hands
2. Prayers
3. Anointing of forehead & hands

Effects:

* Forgiveness of sins
* Spiritual healing
* Physical healing
* Union of sick person w/ Christ
* Gives strength in the final struggle

**Penance**

* Through this, all of our sins are forgiven
* “Hug from God”
* A priest has the power to forgive in the name of the Church

Penitential Rite:

1. (Confess sins)
2. (Apologize & recite Act of Contrition)
3. Laying on of hands
4. Words of absolution (a.k.a. forgiveness)

Effects:

* Forgiveness of sins
* Being reunited w/ Christ & the Church

Sacraments of Service

**Matrimony**

* Sign of God’s calling us to holiness
* God calls couple to bless, rejoice, and sustain in their union
* Christ compares the union of a couple w/ His union w/ the Church
* He stresses purity of heart – couple should treat each other w/ respect
* Marriage should be a permanent, exclusive, love relationship

The couple is the minister (administer sacrament to each other)

* Priest (or deacon) is only a witness
* Maid of honor & best man are also witnesses

Marriage in the Catholic Church requires:

* Baptism – at least 1 must be baptized
* Mature age
* Unmarried
* Able to give free/full/true consent (w/o force or fear), or else marriage never existed

Free/Full/True Consent

* Lifelong commitment of love
* Able to perform sexual intercourse
* Open to raising a family

Rite:

1. Exchange of vows
2. 2 witnesses
3. Nuptial blessing

Effects:

* Covenant valid for life (Christ promises to be w/ them)
* Marriage involves total commitment, resulting in union of body, heart, and soul
* Sexual intercourse must be unitive (only w/ each other) and procreative
* When married love brings new life, it makes up the family called the domestic church

**Holy Orders**

* We are all called to serve
* This sacrament makes Christ’s priesthood present, just as the Eucharist makes Christ’s sacrifice present

Degrees of Sacred Order:

* Episcopacy (bishops)
* Presbyterate (priests)
* Deaconate (deacons) – Permanent &Transitional

Those who have received this sacrament:

* Proclaim & teach God’s word to all people
* Lead Christian community in worship
* Guide & rule God’s people by initiating Christ’s model of service

Rite:

1. Laying on of hands
2. Prayer of consecration
3. (Anointing of hands w/ oil)

Administered by bishop/archbishop in ceremony called ordination

All priests must first be deacons

Celibacy: state of being unmarried in order to dedicate one’s whole life to Christ and His Church (people)