

## **Review of Chapters 14 & 15:**

1. We learned that the Holy Spirit gives us three gifts we call Virtues and that a virtue is a habit that helps us do good and avoid sin.
2. Supernatural gifts come from God: Faith, Hope, and Charity (love)
3. We learned that to stay in the Grace of God (after baptism) we must not be in a state of Mortal Sin.
4. Other virtues that we should practice are the Cardinal virtues.
5. They are: Prudence, Justice, Temperance, and Fortitude.
6. The virtuous life is summed up by Jesus' sermon and the mount → The Beatitudes.

## **Chapter 16 – The Seven Sacraments**

- From the Book of Genesis we read how Adam and Eve lost the gift of grace for all mankind.
- Out of His love for us God set in motion His plan of salvation which led up to His only Son Jesus coming into the world for our salvation.
- Through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection we are now able to receive God's grace once again.
- How do we receive God's grace? → We see through sacred tradition and sacred scripture that Jesus left us His Church to dispense God's grace through the Seven Sacraments!

### **What is a Sacrament?**

- A sacrament is a visible sign from God which give us grace.
- The sacraments are not “magical signs or rites”. They are sacred ceremonies or signs instituted by God which help us to Love and grow closer to Jesus.
- The sacraments also give us the grace to become closer to one another. The Church is our Family!
- Each of the sacraments has special signs (words, actions, and or things) that bear a message for us.

## The Signs of the Sacraments

- Each sign of a sacrament brings us a special message.
- The sacraments are more than just a “sign” as we are used to the word. These signs actual give us God’s grace!
- For example when we are driving and we see a stop sign. Using our own power we stop our car. If the stop sign were like a sacrament it would make us stop as soon as we saw it. The sacraments have power!
- The sacraments are considered to be mysteries of our Faith and in fact they were once called the sacred mysteries.
- Again.....sacraments are not merely symbolic signs they actually confer Grace upon our souls.
- The power of God is present in every sacrament.
- The fruits of the sacraments are however dependent upon our disposition.
  - For example: if an atheist were to go up for communion and receive the body and blood of Christ the power of the sacrament would not be inferred to them. In fact it could be a grave sin on their part for doing so if they did this out of spite for what we believe!
  - For example: if you were to go to confession and confess that you missed mass last Sunday all the while knowing and you were going to purposely miss Mass the next Sunday for no valid reason your sins could not be forgiven because you were not contrite when you confessed.
- The power which we receive from the sacraments is not dependent on who (usually a priest) confers the sacrament.
  - For example: Let’s say that the priest who baptized you was found to be stealing money from the church to pay for his lavish lifestyle. This would not make your baptism invalid. The sacrament comes from the power of God not the priest.
- We have to make room in our hearts for the sacraments!

- The seven sacraments are:
  - 1) Baptism
  - 2) Confirmation
  - 3) Holy Eucharist
  - 4) Penance (Confession/Reconciliation)
  - 5) Anointing of the Sick
  - 6) Holy Orders
  - 7) Holy Matrimony
- Every sacrament is comprised of matter and form (words said).
  - 1) For example during baptism water is poured onto the head of the person and the words: “I baptize you in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit” are said.

### **The Gift of Sacramental Grace**

- Besides giving us sanctifying grace the sacraments give us sacramental grace.
  - Recall that: Sanctifying Grace makes us Holy and pleasing to God and able to live in Heaven
  - Sanctifying Grace gives us three supernatural virtues: Faith, Hope and Charity.
- Sacramental Grace helps us in various ways. It helps us heal, transform, and confirms us to Jesus our savior.

### **Chapter 17 – God Calls us to Reconciliation**

- Again, because of original sin man was separated from God.
- Out of His love for man God sent his only son to reconcile us to the Father through his death on the Cross.
- Through Jesus this separation from God was ended.
  - This is what we call the “Good News”.
- “For God so loved the world that He sent His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16)

## God Call us through His Church

- God's call to reconciliation comes to us through his Church which is the Catholic Church.
  - Only through this Church does the world hear the true voice of Jesus.
  - All other Churches at best have only a partial truth.
  - No other church contains the Seven Sacraments except the Catholic Church.
  - During the reformation Martin Luther did away with 5 sacraments leaving only Baptism and The Lords Supper (not as we Catholics believe though).
- God call us to be members of His Church through baptism.
- At Baptism we are freed from the stain of original sin and become members of His Church → THE CATHOLIC CHURCH!
- The ordinary minister of Baptism is the Priest who has received the sacrament of Holy Orders.
  - However, in case of necessity anyone can perform a baptism even a protestant or an atheist!
  - Usually our parents have us baptized as infants however adults can be baptized.
- To baptize someone water is poured onto the head of the person and the words: "I baptize you in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit" are said. These exact words must be said and cannot be changed.
  - Today some churches are baptizing in the name of the creator, the redeemer, and the Sanctifier or in the name of the Creator, the Liberator, and the Sustainer. THESE ARE NOT VALID!
- Protestants who have been validly baptized are actually members of Christ's Church which is the Catholic Church. However, they are not in full communion with the Catholic Church! If they were to become Catholic they would not have to re-baptized.

## Jesus Gave us Baptism

- Where did we get Baptism from? → JESUS!
- We saw how Jesus had Saint John Baptize Him in the Jordan River. Did Jesus need to be baptized? No, but he was baptized to show us that it was necessary for our salvation and to prepare the waters of the world for baptism. His Glory was also shown:
  - “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; and lo, a voice from heaven, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." (Matt 3:16-17)
- The Catechism of the Catholic Church says: “Jesus’ gesture [of submitting to baptism] is a manifestation of self-emptying. The Spirit who had hovered over the waters of the first creation descended then on the Christ as a prelude to the new creation, and the Father revealed Jesus as ‘his beloved Son’ ” (no. 1224).
- “Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.” (John 3:5) In order to make this spiritual rebirth Jesus gave us the Sacrament of Baptism.
- After His resurrection Jesus appeared to His apostles and preached the importance of Baptism:
  - “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit” (Matt 28:19)
  - Later on Peter preached this same message: “Peter (said) to them, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is made to you and to your children and to all those far off, whomever the Lord our God will call.” (Acts 2:38-39)
- Through the preaching of the apostles thousands of people responded to God’s call of reconciliation.

## **The Effects of Baptism**

- **Baptism is the first sacrament we receive.**
- It can be received only once.
- It gives us an unrepeatable mark called the “Baptismal Seal”.
- This mark indicates that we have been united to Jesus and have become His adopted children.
- Baptism can never be taken away. Not even by sin.
- Through baptism we are able to receive the other sacraments.
- The word “Baptism” means washing and through this washing original sin is washed away from our souls.
- Baptism also washes away all of our mortal and venial sin.
- Once we are baptized we become temples of the Holy Spirit.
- **Three types of Baptism (Water, Blood, and Desire)**

## **Other Types of Baptism (Desire & Blood)**

- What happens to those who die and are not baptized? **Two ways → Baptism by Desire & Baptism by Blood**
- Baptism by Desire means that those who are sorry for their sins and who through no fault of their own do not have the ability to know God. These people are to be saved through God’s grace.
- Baptism by Blood means that those who give up their life for Jesus without being first baptized are able to be saved. God recognizes their love for Him.
- Many of the early martyrs of the Church received baptism in this manner.

**[Video – Catholic Answers: The Custom of Baptism.](#)**

## **Apologetics: Why Baptize Infants?**

**Question from Protestant:** You Catholics baptize infants. This is not biblical. Infants should not be baptized until they are aware of what baptism is and they choose to be baptized. Why do you baptize babies against their will?

**Catholic Response:** The practice of baptizing infants dates back to the second century and quite possibly back to the beginning of the apostolic preaching when whole households, including infants, were baptized. Nowhere does the Bible state that infants shouldn't be baptized so at the very least Catholic's are not going against scripture by baptizing infants. Also, as a parent I have a responsibility to care for my children and this includes their physical and their spiritual health. If you take this view then why have your child vaccinated? Shouldn't you let your child decide if they want to be vaccinated when they are older and understand?

## **Bible Verses to Back up our Belief:**

"I baptized the household of Stephanas also; beyond that I do not know whether I baptized anyone else." (1Cor 1:16)

"but Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." (Matt. 19:14)

"True, I was born guilty, a sinner, even as my mother conceived me." (Psalms 51:5)

## **Apologetics: Is Baptism Symbolic?**

**Question from Protestant:** In my church baptism is just a symbol. Baptism doesn't do anything and it's not required for my salvation. Why do you catholic's believe baptism removes sin when the bible doesn't back up your belief?

**Catholic Response:** Nowhere does the Bible state that baptism is merely symbolic and in fact it states that it is required for salvation and for the removal of sin.

### **Bible Verses to Back up our Belief:**

Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a clear conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, (1 Peter 3:21)

“He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.” (Mark 16:16)

“Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.” (John 3:5)

“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit” (Matt 28:19) **Baptism is how Christians are created!**

### **Review Questions:**

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| 1) There are how many sacraments?              | Seven  |
| 2) The 7 Sacraments are:                       | Baptism, Confession, Eucharist, Confirmation, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders, and Marriage |
| 3) The first sacrament we receive is?          | Baptism  |
| 4) Three types of Baptism are                  | By Water, Blood, and Desire  |
| 5) What does Baptism remove:                   | Original Sin and actual sins in the case of an adult.  |
| 6) God calls us to reconciliation through:     | His Church   |
| 7) Can the words spoken at baptism be changed? | No!  |

✓ Next Week we start discussing Baptism in more detail as well as the sacrament of Confirmation