

Review of Chapters 16 & 17:

1. A sacrament is a visible sign from God which give us grace.
2. The seven sacraments are: Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist, Penance (Confession/Reconciliation), Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders, Holy Matrimony
3. Three types of Baptism (Water, Blood, and Desire)
4. Sacraments are not merely symbolic signs they actually confer Grace upon our souls.
5. We learned that sacraments use signs and form (words).

Chapter 18 – Baptism

- We have learned how Jesus instituted the Sacrament of Baptism and told His followers to baptize others using water and words.
- The sacrament of baptism makes one a member of the Catholic Church

The Use of Water

- Christ chose water as part of the sign of baptism because it had a deep meaning to God's people.
Examples of God's use of water as a sign:
 1. In the book of Genesis we that the Spirit of God moved over the waters of the earth.
 2. God used water to destroy evil in Noah's time and that Noah's family was saved from this flood.
 3. God used water to free the Jews from the Egyptians by parting the Red Sea. Water → Salvation
 4. Jesus walked on water.
- So.... We can see how God has used water to destroy evil and bring good from it.
- Water however by itself it cannot free us from sin or provide us with God's grace.
- Jesus gave us an example to follow when we baptize: (Matt 28:19-20) "*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.*"

- In baptism we are consecrated or set aside to God. We are made Holy Temples of the Holy Spirit.
- The Rite consists of Water & Words.
 - Water: A person may be immersed in water or have water poured over their head.
 - Immersion is the fullest expression of the sacrament.
 - Words: I baptize you in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- The other types of Baptism are Baptism by Blood and Baptism by Desire.

The Rite of Baptism

- Definition: A rite is a ceremony which changes a person social status in an organization.
- Many organizations have rites or rituals which people have to go through to become a member of that organization.
- The Catholic Rite of Baptism is much different than a secular rite.
- The rite of Baptism is a commandment from Jesus in which we become members of the Catholic Church → Mystical Body of Christ. The stain and punishment of original sin is removed as well as any personnel sins committed by the person being baptized.

What happens during a baptism?

- First the infant is brought to the church by his parents and godparents.
- Godparents have the duty of assisting the parents in raising the child in the Faith.
- Godparents must be 16 years or older and must have been confirmed and have received the Eucharist.
- The Priest who represents Jesus meets the family and welcomes them into the Church welcoming the baby into the community of God which is the Holy Catholic Church.
- Next the Liturgy of the Word takes place. The readings show us that God has called us to Baptism for our salvation.
- Next the actual baptism takes places, but first a minor exorcism is performed.
 - Exorcisms are divided into two kinds (or forms):

- Minor forms of exorcism are found in two places: Baptism and the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). An example of a minor exorcism prayer is the St. Michael prayer.
- The second kind is the solemn or "major exorcism," which is a rite that can only be performed by a bishop or a by priest, with the special and express permission of the local Bishop. This form is directed "at the expulsion of demons or to the liberation [of a person] from demonic possession" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 1673).
- After the exorcism the priest anoints the infant with the oil of the catechumens.
 - The oil has been consecrated and blessed by the Bishop → oil is called sacred chrism.
 - Chrism is made of olive oil and is scented with a sweet perfume, usually balsam.
 - Does anyone know where these oils are kept in our Church?
- Next the baby, through the lips of the parents, rejects sin and Satan and accepts the teachings of the Catholic Church as stated in the Creed.
- Next the baby receives a white garment which is an ancient symbol for purity and sinlessness.
- A white candle is also given to the baby as a reminder of our Lord who is the Light of the World.

Living Our Baptismal Commitment

- At baptism we make a spiritual vow or promise to God to live out our life according to the teachings of God which have been revealed through Jesus' Church.
- We must receive the sacraments especially the sacraments of Penance and Holy Communion.
- We must study also the faith so we are prepared to live our or love for God in our lives.
- Remember that we are soldiers for Christ and that we are at battle with the demonic world.
- It's our duty as Catholics to live our faith and be active in it spreading it to others.

Chapter 19 – Confirmation

- During the Last Supper the Apostles knew that Jesus was saying good bye to them. He was talking to them about going to a place they could not yet go.
- This obviously saddened and worried the apostles, but Jesus promised them He would send them someone to strengthen and guide them. From scripture we see that He would send them the Paraclete or counselor guide them and be their counselor.
- The Paraclete is the Holy Spirit who is the third person of the Trinity.
- The Holy Spirit would give them all the spiritual help they would need to carry out the mission of Christ's Church.
- We also share in this promise and we participate in it through the Sacrament of Confirmation.

The Promise Fulfilled

- After Jesus ascended or returned to the Father (in heaven) the Apostles and other disciples spent nine days with the Mary the Mother of God in prayer asking God to send them the Gift of the Holy Spirit.
- **Act 2:1-5** → *“When the **day of Pentecost** had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”*
- We see that this verse uses the symbols of wind and fire to show how the Holy Spirit descended upon them.
 - Wind → Is an invisible force, but it can have enormous power. Example: A tornado/hurricane
 - Fire → Fire cleanses things. Example: A forest fire clears the ground and renews it for new life.
- So we see how the Spirit is like an invisible power that cleanses our hearts of sin and selfish desire.
- The Holy Spirit helps us to mature as Christians!

We Receive the Fullness of the Spirit

- We learned how at Baptism we first receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- The Sacrament of Confirmation increases and strengthens this power within us.
- It helps us to be witnesses and stand up for Jesus among our friends and others around us.
- The New Testament does not tell us exactly when the Paraclete was given to the Church but it is believed that it was revealed to the Apostles on the Day of Pentecost.
- **Question:** What is the Pentecost? → It's the day the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles in the upper room where they were in hiding. We find this event written down in the book of Acts.
- From the Book of Acts we see for the first time the Apostles handing (confirming) on the Christian faith to those who were baptized.
- **Nowadays confirmation is usually done by the Bishop. Bishops are considered to be the successors of the Apostles.** Keep in mind that the Catholic Church is the only church which can trace each bishop back to the original Apostles. All other churches can only do so by going back and tracing their history through the Catholic Church!
- **The sign of confirmation is the laying on of hands** and the anointing with sacred chrism oil.
- The laying on of hands shows us that a spiritual gift is being passed on.
- The Chrism oil once again as in baptism reminds us at shows us that we share in the Jesus' triple office.
 - Triple Office is: Priest, King, and Prophet
- During the Rite The Bishop says: "be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit" which tells us what is being handed down.

The Effects of Confirmation

- Like Baptism, Confirmation gives us a seal or spiritual mark which shows that we are Christians.
- At Baptism we are spiritual infants, while at confirmation we are spiritual adults.

- This is why we must take our religious education seriously. The next step in your spiritual life will be confirmation and you must be prepared.
- Why must I be prepared?
 - Imagine you are taking Judo and you really want to obtain a black belt, but you are lazy and you skip classes so you do not know all the required moves to progress to a black belt. Let's say that your sensei is friend of your dad so he gives you a black belt anyway. You right away go and enter a tournament as a black belt because you feel like what you have been doing is good enough. What's going to happen? → You will lose because you are not prepared.
 - This is why we must take our spiritual training seriously and learn our faith. Our lives and our salvation will depend on it. We cannot afford to lose the tournament of life to sin and the temptations of the devil.
- If we let God's grace into our life we can be transformed into courageous followers of the Lord, who are willing to lay down our lives for the love of God and the truths of the faith!

Video – 3MC – DVD2, Part 6: Sanctification, Title #37 - CONFIRMATION

The Rite of Confirmation

- The sacrament of Confirmation usually takes place during a special “Mass of the Holy Spirit” that is celebrated by the Bishop.
- The Confirmation candidate must come before the sacrament in a state of grace!
- It is like other Masses except that the prayers and readings are all about the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives.
- The administration of the sacrament takes places after the homily.
 1. The Bishop leads everyone in the renewal of our Baptismal vows where we once again reject Sin and Satan.
 2. We recite the Creed and profess our loyalty to Jesus.
 3. Then the Bishop stretches out his hands and says a confirmation prayer:

4. *“All-powerful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by water and the Holy Spirit you freed your sons and daughters from sin and gave them new life. Send your Holy Spirit upon them to be their helper and guide. Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence. Fill them with the spirit of wonder and awe in your presence.”*
5. After this comes the actual administration of the Sacrament through the anointing with sacred chrism oil and the laying on of hands.
6. Each candidate, together with their sponsor comes before the Bishop. The Bishop dips his right thumb into the chrism oil and places his hand on the head of the candidate making the sign of the Cross with the oil saying: *“(Name), be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.”*
7. The candidate answers → *“Amen”* and the Bishop replies → *“Peace be with you”*. Candidate replies → *“and with your Spirit”*
8. Through this sacred rite the candidate has been sealed with the Spirit and has received the out pouring of His powerful gifts.
9. The Mass continues as normal and at the end a special blessing is given to the newly confirmed Catholics!

Living as Mature Catholics

- Once we are confirmed we have a very big mission ahead of us.
- Don't think that once you are confirmed your duty as a catholic is over. This is just the beginning...
- Confirmation does not mean that our religious education is over. Your formal education may be over, but you must be mature enough to educate yourself.
 - How can we do this?
 - By: praying, reading the bible, reading the catechism, reading the lives of the saints, reading the writing of the church fathers, watching and listening to catholic programs, and etc...
- Don't worry, if we listen to the Holy Spirit He will help us carry out our mission by strengthening us and guiding us.

- Remember we have been placed under the protection of God through our Guardian Angel and our Patron Saint.

Review Questions:

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| 1) The Sacrament of Baptism make one a: | <i>Member of the Christian Church – Catholic Church</i> |
| 2) What is removed from our souls during baptism? | <i>All sin including original</i> |
| 3) What is performed during baptism? | <i>A minor exorcism</i> |
| 4) In what book of the Bible do we see confirmation? | <i>Book of Acts</i> |
| 5) What do we call the day Jesus appeared to the Apostles in the upper room? | <i>The Pentecost</i> |
| 6) Who typically administers the sacrament of confirmation? | <i>The Bishop</i> |
| 7) The sign of confirmation is: | <i>The laying on of hands</i> |
| 8) Does our spiritual life end after confirmation? | <i>No!</i> |

Apologetics: Other Churches who “think” they are the Church of the Pentecost

As we all know the Catholic Church is the original Church which was founded by Christ’s death on the Cross and was confirmed by the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. We can easily show and prove this historically. No other church can do this!

Be aware that there is a newer brand of Christianity out there which often preys on uneducated Catholics. This brand of Christianity is called Pentecostalism and it is very popular in our area. It began in 1907 on Azusa Street in California making the claim that it has gone back to Christianity’s roots and practices the faith just like it was on the day of Pentecost. This is why they are called Pentecostals. They are one of the fastest growing denominations in the world. There are over 279 million Pentecostals worldwide.

Some of their beliefs are:

- Pentecostals agree with the Protestant principle of sola Scriptura that the Bible is the sole rule for faith.
- Divine healing – miraculous healings in front of the church.
- Baptism of the spirit in which the person may speak in tongues.
- Baptism is symbolic and just a sign – it does not remove original sin.
- Some Pentecostal churches may not baptize in the correct manner.
- They tend to be very pro-life. This is a good thing and is an area in which we agree with them.
- They adhere to a strict dress code: Woman cannot wear jeans (they usually wear a jean skirt), cut their hair, or wear make-up or perfume.
- They believe in and often talk about something called “the rapture”. The basic belief behind the Rapture is that Christ will come to judge the living and those that are "saved" will be raptured from earth and taken up into the sky with Christ to heaven. There will then be a period of tribulation for those left behind before the second coming of Christ. Then there will be a one thousand year reign (millennium) of Christ's Kingdom on earth before this world ends. Many rapture believers believe that the rapture is very near and will occur within their life.
- The Rapture is very confusing and hardly any denomination agrees on how it will happen.

Lastly, the movement has split into many different denominations: The Nazarenes, The Assembly of God, and so on. Be aware that they will try to convert you if given the chance.

- Know your Faith!

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