

Prayer

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen. Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Enlighten our minds that we may understand your sacraments and the grace you give through them so we might know you better and live a life worthy of your calling, Amen.

Summary

A *sacrament* is a sign and instrument (CCC 1111) through which we worship God & are sanctified (made holy) (CL 840)

Sacraments are: (CCC 1131)

- * Efficacious signs of Grace
- * Instituted by Christ & entrusted to the Church
- * By which Divine Life (Grace) is given to us

Efficacious signs of Grace

Efficacious – having the power to produce a desired result

Signs – any object, action, event, pattern, etc., that conveys a meaning

Grace – Divine life in the person

Signs of grace with power to give grace to the recipient (the sign contains & gives grace)

Instituted by Christ & entrusted to the Church

Instituted – to originate and get established; to set going

Entrusted – to give something over to another

Church – priestly community structured by 1) baptismal priesthood & 2) ordained priesthood

Christ initiated the sacraments and entrusted to the Church's authority (Bishops in union with the Pope)

By which Divine Life (Grace) is given to us

Divine Life – God's life in us so that we can live as Christians and please God

Given – granted, handed over to another

When properly disposed, we receive the grace contained in the sacraments which makes us like God (sanctification)

Sacrament Groups

- * *Initiation* – Baptism, Eucharist & Confirmation (fully initiated receive all 3)
- * *Healing* – Reconciliation & Sacrament of the Sick
- * *Vocation* – Matrimony & Holy Orders

7 Sacraments List & Effect

- * *Baptism* changes us and makes us a new creation by the Holy Spirit (Mt 28:18-20)
- * *Eucharist* become the Body & Blood of Christ sacramentally to strengthen us with grace (Jn 6: 22-68 & 1 Cor 11:17-34)
- * *Confirmation* imbues the Christian with the seven-fold gifts of the Spirit (Acts 8:14-17)
- * *Reconciliation* forgives penitent's sins and restores right relations with God (Jn 20:19-23, Mt 16:17-19 & 18:18)
- * *Sacrament of the Sick* forgives sin and gives grace in sickness, old age, upcoming surgery, etc. (Jas 5:13-20)
- * *Matrimony* binds one a man and woman together as God intended (Gen 2:18-25, Mt 19:3-9 & Mk 10:2-12)
- * *Holy Orders* changes the character of the man making him a priest forever (NT uses terms bishop, elders, and presbyters interchangeably, see Hebrews describing Jesus' priesthood after the order of Melchizedek who has not beginning or end Gen 14:17-24)

Discussion & Questions about the Sacraments

It's very important to integrate and not reject Church teaching on the sacraments because we receive grace & life. It is grace that makes us able to live a Christian life and do things like love our enemies.

References

Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC). ©2003, Libreria Editrice Vaticana,
http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/_INDEX.HTM.

For Further Reading See

Catechism Sections on Liturgy and Sacraments (Pt 2: Celebration of the Christian Mystery 1066-1075; Sect 1: Sacramental Economy 1076; Ch 1 Pascal Mystery in the Age of the Church, Art 1 Liturgy-Work of the Holy Trinity 1077-1112, Art 2 Pascal Mystery in the Church's Sacraments 1113-1134; Ch 2 Sacramental Celebration of the Pascal Mystery 1135, Art 1 Celebrating the Church's Liturgy 1136-1199, Art 2 Liturgical Diversity and the Unity of the Mystery 1200-1209; Sect 2 Seven Sacraments of the Church 1210-1211, Ch 1 Sacraments of Initiation 1212-1419, Ch 2 Sacraments of Healing 1420-1531, Ch 3 Sacraments at the Service of Communion 1532-1666, Ch 4 Other Liturgical Celebrations, Art 1 Sacramentals 1667-1679, Art 2 Christian Funerals 1680-1690)

Canon Law Overview & Highlights (Book IV: The Sanctifying Office of the Church, canons 834-848; Part I The Sacraments, canons 849-1165; Part II The Other Acts of Divine Worship, canons 1166-1204; Part III Sacred Places and Times canons 1205-1243)

840 Sacraments instituted by Christ and entrusted to the church; as actions of Christ, they are signs by which faith is expressed & strengthened, worship is offered to God and we are sanctified; they contribute to establishing, strengthening & manifesting ecclesiastical (church) communion; for these reasons faithful must show great reverence & due care

841 Since the sacraments are the same throughout the universal (catholic) church & belong to the divine deposit of faith, only the supreme authority in the Church can approve & define what is needed for their validity

842 §1 One who has not been baptized cannot validly receive the other sacraments

842 §2 Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation & Eucharist are required for full Christian initiation

Scripture (Congregation of the Clergy, Biblia Clerus, ©2004 Catholic Software, <http://www.clerus.org>)

Canon Law (©1983 Libreria Editrice Vaticana, http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG1104/_INDEX.HTM)