

Part 2 SESSION 1 THE SACRAMENTS

Baptism & Confirmation

Summary of Main Points presented in this Episode:

- “Sacraments are efficacious signs of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us” (CCC 1131).
- “The visible rites by which the sacraments are celebrated signify and make present the graces proper to each sacrament. They bear fruit in those who receive them with the required dispositions.” (CCC 1131).
- The Catholic Church recognizes seven sacraments as having been established by Christ (CCC 1210-1211).
- Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist are the Sacraments of Initiation, which lay the foundations of the Christian life (CCC 1212).
- Reconciliation (or Penance) and Anointing of the Sick are the two Sacraments of Healing, which heal and strengthen the soul weakened by illness and sin (CCC 1420-1421).
- Matrimony and Holy Orders are the two Sacraments of Service, directed toward the salvation of others (CCC 1534).
- Baptism in particular is the gateway of the Christian life. Through this sacrament, the soul passes through Christ’s death and resurrection and experiences death of the old self and rebirth as a child of God (CCC 1213).
- The effects of Baptism include:
 1. Forgiveness of sins (CCC 1262).
 2. Being made into a new creature filled with Christ’s Spirit (CCC 1265).
 3. Being incorporated into the Church (CCC 1267).
 4. Being marked as belonging to Christ, made citizens and heirs of heaven (CCC 1316).
- Confirmation perfects the grace of Baptism and gives the Holy Spirit to root us more deeply in Christ and in his Church’s mission and strengthen us to bear witness to Christ in the world (CCC 1303, 1316).
- Confirmation deepens baptismal grace (CCC 1285). It unites us more firmly with Christ, increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit, binds us to the Church and gives the strength to spread the Gospel (CCC 1303)