

Lesson 7 – Participating in the Divine Life of God

The Holy Mysteries – Sacraments

We are able to share in the life of God by many different means. However, the Church has identified some special means, which we call **SACRAMENTS**. The word "sacrament" in Greek means "mystery."

We normally talk of a '**mystery**' as something we don't know, don't understand: In both the New Testament and the language of the Church, however, 'mystery' means not just what you don't know or fully understand, but also those things, known or unknown, that inspire a feeling of awe. For example, we may now understand exactly how babies are conceived and develop – but that doesn't stop us being overwhelmed with wonder at the process. It is this deeper meaning of 'mystery' – what inspires wonder – that the Church uses when she calls the sacraments, ...'mysteries'. The Mysteries are what is revealed to us by God – but not revealed in its fullness – for the Mysteries reach into the very depths of God Himself.

Sacraments, in a very broad sense of the term, combines two elements: one visible, the other invisible--one that can be seen, or tasted, or touched, or heard; the other unseen to the eyes of the flesh.

Sacraments and the Seven Conditions of Life

| The Physical or the Natural life | The Divine Christ - Life | |
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| In order to live, one must obviously be born | We must be spiritually born to it, and that is the Sacrament of Baptism | Initiation/ Christian Life |
| He must nourish himself, for he who does not eat shall not live | We must nourish the divine life in the soul, which is the Eucharist | |
| He must grow to maturity, throwing away the things of the child, and assume the responsibilities of adult life | We must grow to spiritual maturity and assume full responsibilities as members of the spiritual army of the Church, which is Confirmation | |
| In case he is wounded, he must have his wounds bound and healed | We must heal the wounds of sin, which is Penance | Healing/ Body and Soul |
| In case he has disease (for a disease is very different from a wound), the traces of the disease must be driven out | We must drive out the traces of the diseases of sin, which is the Anointing of the Sick | |
| He must live under government and justice in human relationships | We must live under the spiritual government of the Church, which is Holy Orders | Vocation/ Service |
| He is called to propagate the human species. | We must prolong and propagate the Kingdom of God on earth, which is Matrimony . | |

This week's Assignment, Read Chapter 22, Sacramentals and Popular Devotion then, Pray the Rosary

The Fruits of the Holy Spirit in the Catholic Catechism and Tradition are drawn largely from St. Paul's letter to the Galatians Chapter 5:22-26 and Matthew's gospel.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other. (Gal 5:22-26)

“Just so, every good tree bears good fruit, and a rotten tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a rotten tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. So by their fruits you will know them.” (Matthew 7:17-20)

This passage in Matthew's Gospel helps us to understand the Fruits of the Holy Spirit, which are the observable behaviors of people who have allowed the grace of the Holy Spirit to be effective in them. The tradition of the Church lists 12 fruits:

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| charity | generosity |
| joy | gentleness |
| peace | faithfulness |
| patience | modesty |
| kindness | self-control |
| goodness | chastity |

Outline and Talk Notes

1. The Most Holy Trinity; A play of relationship, a family of love.
 - a. God the Father, (The Lover)
 - b. Jesus, the Son sent by the Father (The Beloved)
 - c. The Holy Spirit, the shared love between the Father and the Son
2. Sacraments and Grace
 - a. A participation in the divine life, salvation, and forgiveness of Jesus
3. The Rosary