

THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS

The *Catechism* groups the sacraments under three headings: initiation, healing and service (see #1210-1666). These “sacred signs” share the dimensions of past, present and future.

Past

Present

Future

Initiation **These celebrate and introduce us to the experience of the Christian life.**

BAPTISM

Baptism signifies our immersion in the Christian life and marks our spiritual rebirth in the Church.

Jesus called people to follow him and invited them into community and the life of God.

We call people to follow Jesus and invite them into our community.

We look forward to and work for the day when all people will be in unity.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation seals our Baptism and confirms our commitment both to the Church and to the work of Christ in the world.

Jesus communicated his spirit to people and strengthened them.

We communicate the spirit of Jesus to people and strengthen them.

We announce that all can be filled and strengthened by the spirit of God.

EUCHARIST

Eucharist celebrates our life together as a community, the presence of Christ in our midst, the Word that is proclaimed and explained, many dimensions of the paschal mystery of death and rebirth. We celebrate our unity with Christ in communion and service.

Jesus ate with sinners and was present to them.

We share Christ's real presence today under the signs of bread and wine.

We anticipate the day when all people will be fed and will find God close to them.

Healing **These celebrate and reveal to us God's power to heal us in soul and body.**

RECONCILIATION

Reconciliation celebrates and reminds us of God's mercy and helps us to experience divine forgiveness, to forgive ourselves and to become reconciled with others.

Jesus called for conversion and forgave those who were repentant.

We are called to conversion, we ask for forgiveness, and we forgive others.

We know that forgiveness and reconciliation are always possible with God's help.

ANOINTING

Anointing of the Sick celebrates and reminds us of God's compassion and helps us to experience spiritual—and sometimes physical—strengthening when we are ill.

Jesus healed the suffering in body and soul.

We ask for God's healing when we are sick and suffering.

We hope and work for the relief of all suffering in the world.

Service **These celebrate the Christian vocation of service and consecrate us to minister within our own family and within the wider Church community.**

MARRIAGE

Matrimony joins two people in marriage for a lifetime of dedication to each other's well-being and the well-being of their children and the community.

Jesus called spouses to unconditional love and lasting fidelity.

We honor and expect unconditional love and lasting fidelity between spouses.

We believe in and help others to find happiness in marital love and fidelity.

ORDINATION

Ordination integrates men into the holy orders of bishops, priests and deacons, empowering them for a lifetime of leadership and service in the Church.

Jesus appointed 12 to minister in a special way.

We ordain certain members to minister and lead us in the sacraments.

We raise up future ministers by proclaiming that ordained ministry is a special vocation of Christians.