

Sequence of Initiation Sacraments

in current official Roman Catholic documents, (emphasis in bold is added)

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BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION, EUCHARIST IN TRADITIONAL ORDER

- “The third step in the Christian initiation of adults is the celebration of the sacraments of **baptism, confirmation, and eucharist.**”
RCIA 206
- “**Finally** in the celebration of the eucharist, as they take part for the first time and with full right, the newly baptized reach the **culminating point** in their Christian initiation.”
RCIA 217
- “The sharing in the divine nature given to men through the grace of Christ bears a certain likeness to the origin, development, and nourishing of natural life. The faithful are born anew by **baptism**, strengthened by the sacrament of **confirmation**, and **finally** are sustained by the food of eternal life in the **eucharist.**”
Paul VI, Apostolic Constitution *Divinae Consortium Naturae*
- CCC 1212 quotes AC above, but omits ‘finally.’ Still lists traditional sequence with Eucharist last.
- “Confirmation is so closely linked with the holy eucharist that the faithful, **after** being signed by holy **baptism** and **confirmation**, are incorporated fully into the body of Christ by participation in the **eucharist.**”
Paul VI, AC *Divinae Consortium Naturae*
- “As a rule, Confirmation takes place within Mass in order to express more clearly the fundamental connection of this sacrament with all of Christian initiation, which reaches its **culmination in the Communion** of the Body and Blood of Christ. The newly confirmed therefore participate in the Eucharist, which **completes their Christian initiation.**”
Order of Confirmation 13
- Cf. *Gen’l Introduction to Christian Initiation*, n. 1-2 address first baptism, then confirmation, eucharist last.
- “Dearly beloved, these children have been reborn in **baptism**.... In **confirmation** they will receive the fullness of God’s Spirit.... In holy **communion** they will share the banquet of Christ’s sacrifice”
Order of Baptism of Children, Lord’s Prayer introduction, n. 68
- “The sacraments of **baptism, confirmation, and the Most Holy Eucharist** are so interrelated that they are required for full Christian initiation.” [note traditional order]
Code of Canon Law 842 §2
- [Care of a Dying Child] “As far as possible, the *Rite of Baptism of Children* and the *Rite of Confirmation* are celebrated in the usual way. The **eucharist completes the sacraments of initiation**....”
Pastoral Care of the Sick, Part Two, Chapter 8: Christian Initiation for the Dying

INITIATION COMPLETED BY CONFIRMATION?

- “In the sacrament of confirmation the apostles and the bishops who are their successors hand onto the baptize the special gift of the Holy Spirit, promised by Christ the Lord and poured out up on the apostles at Pentecost. Thus the **initiation** in the Christian life is **completed**,”
Decree by Congregation for Divine Worship, preceding *Rite of Confirmation*, 1971
- “On the day of Pentecost the apostles received the Holy Spirit as the Lord had promised. They also received the power of giving the Holy Spirit to others and so **completing the work of baptism.**”
Rite of Confirmation 22, Homily or Instruction
- Cf. CCC 1275 on Baptism has sacraments in traditional order. But 1285 begins section on Confirmation with “Baptism, the Eucharist, and the sacrament of Confirmation [*in this order*] together constitute the ‘sacraments of initiation,’ whose unity must be safeguarded.”