

St Brigid & St Patrick

June 27, 2021

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The Sacraments: Divine Channels of Grace

(Grace That Jesus Won For Us On The Cross)



It is impossible to exaggerate the importance of understanding what we mean by the sacraments as **channels of divine grace**. We might almost say that Christianity is divided into two classes: *those who believe* that Christ instituted the sacraments as instruments of His grace and *those who do not*. In the sixteenth century, six whole nations separated from Catholic unity because their leaders **no longer believed** in what we Catholics call the seven sacraments.

This is also part of the crisis in the Christian world today. There are those who still believe that Christ instituted seven channels of His grace, and those who may use the word "*sacrament*" but no longer believe **either** in the sacraments as communicators of grace **or** the Church's authority over the sacraments. We may even say that the future of Christianity depends on professed Christians understanding - and we mean understanding - the **necessity** of the sacraments for reaching eternal life.

The focus in this article will be on one word, "*understanding*." We ask ourselves **three** questions: Why did Christ institute seven sacramental channels of grace? How are these channels of grace being undermined in some professedly Catholic circles today? What is our consequent duty as teachers of the true faith?

God became man in order to bring the human race to **join** the *Holy Trinity* in a heavenly eternity. Our destiny is to return to the God from whom we came, to share in His own **perfect happiness** that He enjoys. But this same God gave us a free will that we are to use, according to His will, in order to reach the celestial home where He is waiting for us.

The most **fundamental condition** that we are to fulfill is to be in His friendship when He calls us from time into eternity. Another name for this divine friendship is the *possession of sanctifying grace*. Having destined us for heavenly beatitude, in sheer justice, He provided us with the means of attaining what we call the Beatific Vision.

On these terms, the sacraments are **the principal ways** that we can obtain the supernatural life, without which no one can be saved. It is also through the sacraments that we grow in this *life of grace*, as it is also the sacraments that provide us with a means of restoring the life of God's friendship that we may have lost through **grave sin**. We see immediately that Christ instituted the sacraments to give us the grace we need to reach heaven, to grow in His grace and thus earn a greater happiness in eternity, and regain His friendship if we have lost it through our disobedience to His will.

The moment we say that the sacraments are **channels of divine grace**, we assume that we come into this world without the grace needed to reach heaven. It is not our purpose here to explore the mysterious providence of God in allowing so many people not to receive the sacraments which Christ instituted. There is such a thing as not receiving the sacraments actually but only in desire. Nevertheless, the basic principle remains, the sacraments are the means which Christ provided for the salvation of the human family. Immediately certain conclusions follow. Each of the seven sacraments has its own divinely intended **purpose**.

As believing Christians, loyal to Christ, our **first** responsibility is to guard the deposit of faith in the sacraments which Christ became man to give us, the grace **we need** to reach eternal life. This guarding of the sacramental faith carries with it a number of grave obligations.

We **must** grow in understanding the meaning of our faith. We **must** grow in the clarity of mind in seeing the subtle distinctions hidden behind our faith. We **must** grow in the certitude of what we profess to believe. We **must** grow in knowing how to defend this faith in the *face of opposition* that is sweeping across the Catholic world like a demonic hurricane.

But *understanding* the **Faith** is not enough. Otherwise, the sacraments will become for us, what they have become for so many others, unless we **put our faith into daily practice**. We asked what is our duty as teachers of the true faith in an atmosphere that is clouded to the point of *blindness* on the meaning of the sacraments. We shall be as faithful teachers of the true *Faith*, as we are courageous in explaining this faith, **without** compromise and **without** fear of the consequences.

When Christ told us, "*Without me you can do nothing*," He meant this literally. Without the grace which He gives through the sacraments which He instituted, we **cannot** hope to remain Christians or Catholics or, least of all, channels of His wisdom to those whom we are instructing in the one true Faith on which depends the salvation of the world.

(From: *The Real Presence Association*)

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

(ANY CHANGES, PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE.)

Pastor: Fr. Charles LaCroix
charles.lacroix@fargodiocese.org

Jim Dunnigan, Heidi Schwartz, Patty Durand, Lori Hill, Millie Laxdal, John Christianson, Pauline Dusek, Patricia Rodvold, Jane Zidon, Marla Zidon, Rex Grill, Heidi Gustafson, Adriane Wellman, Isabelle Copeland, Tracy Letzring, Kelly Morrison, Jody Deibert, Allison Bleick, Dale Hultin, Bob McCartney, Susie Dimsha, Sherry McDonald, Shelbie Goodoien, Oliver Goodoien, Brent Collins, Merle Larson, Robert O'Toole, Ruth Rieger, Melanie Fischer, Ruth Ivesdahl, Mae Jackson, Carol Smith, Mary Louise, Bernard & Aletha Schommer, Brianna Fernandez, Brett & Rick Letzring, Jane Grazadzieleski, Rick Kilichowski, Donald Denault, Gary Olson, Fr. Finnestad, Joan Kerian.

ST PATRICK ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Pray the Rosary: Sun at 8:00 am. **Adoration with Confessions:** Sat at 8:00 am. **More Confessions:** Sun 8:00 am. **July Church Cleaners:** Reg & Leona Wieler, Brian & Sara O'Toole, Frank & Ali O'Toole. **Collection:** Paul & Blanca (Jun 27); Deidre & Dianne (Jul 4). **Reader:** Al (July). **Sanctuary Lamp:** Pat & Clementine O'Toole (Jun 27); Kevin & Theresa O'Toole (Jul 4). **Sacristan:** Scott (Jun 27); Melissa (Jul 4). **Rosary:** Mary S (Jun 27); Jim (Jul 4)

ST BRIGID ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pray the Rosary: Sun at 10:00 am. **Adoration with Confessions:** Wed & Fri at 11:00 am; **More Confessions:** Sat 4-5:00 pm, Mon 5-5:15 pm. **July Church cleaners:** A-F. **Collection:** Doug & Gary (Jun 27); Trevor & Scott (Jul 4). **Readers** (July): Sat-Dick; Sun-Mike B. **Rosary:** Larry C (Jun 27, Jul 4). **Sanctuary Lamp:** Helen Kirking (Jun 27); Jim Mahar (Jul 4)

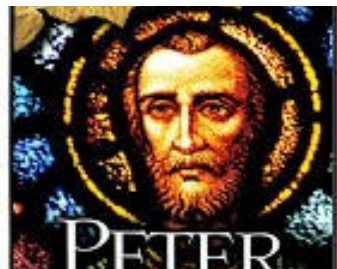
Postcards were sent out: For cemetery upkeep. Thank you for your generosity in whatever donation you can make.

Lent is Over. Can We Now Eat Meat on Fridays?: No! Unless you substitute it with another penance. Every Friday in the year is a day of penance. It's just that, here is the US, outside of Lent, you can choose your penance.

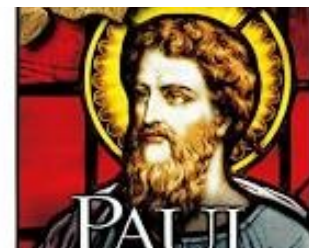
Calling All Men: Become a Knight of Columbus. Men of both parishes, contact Gary Robinson of St. Brigid.

Protect our brothers and sisters in the womb, go to: <https://www.notaxpayerabortion.com/>

Sign up for "Formed"! We need everyone with an e-mail address to sign up! It is **free** to all of our parishioners. This is the week to sign up. It's easy; see the front of this bulletin. Go to: formed.org. **Another** note: Once you sign up and sign-in for the first time, if you never log out, you never have to log in again! So, "X" out, but don't log out.



This week on "Formed"
The Solemnity of **St. Peter & St. Paul** is June 29! Watch the two episodes in the series "**Footprints of God**"!



Mon	St Irenaeus	June 28	5:15 pm	St Brigid	Special Intention BP
Tues	Sts Peter & Paul	June 29	8:00 am	St Patrick	+Vernice DeMars
Wed		June 30	Noon	St Brigid	+Rita Zaharia
Thur	St Junipero Serra	July 1	8:00 am	St Patrick	+Tom Copeland
Fri	1st Friday	July 2	Noon	St Brigid	+Carol Longtin
Sat	St Thomas	July 3	9:00 am	St Patrick	St Brigid & St Patrick Parishes
			5:00 pm	St Brigid	+Marlys Olson
Sun	14th Sunday in Ordinary Time	July 4	8:30 am	St Patrick	St Brigid & St Patrick Parishes
			10:30 am	St Brigid	Dawson Kraft

Stewardship (as of 6-20-21)	St Brigid	St Patrick		St Brigid	St Patrick
Adult Envelope	1135.00	355.55	<i>St Patrick's Care Collection June</i>		225.00
Plate	133.00	10.00	Cemetery	3,750.00	4,481.69
Weekly Total	1268.00	365.55	St Anthony Cemetery \$1390.00		
Yearly Actual Total	53,890.26	23,393.99	St Brigid Gods Gift Goal: \$23,485.48	11,698.00	
Monthly Envelope Building Fund	1,980.00	2,455.00	St Patrick Gods Gift Goal: \$9,103.15		5,752.00
Ascension	495.00	105.00	St Helen Cemetery \$475.00		
			St Bernard Cemetery \$262.00		