

May 6, 2020

Please read pages 288 – 289 in your textbook which deal with the sacraments

We celebrate 7 sacraments in the Catholic Church:

Sacraments of initiation : **Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation**

Sacraments of healing : **Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick**

Sacraments of service : **Matrimony, Holy Orders**

Sacraments are acts (actions), customs, ceremonies, celebrations, rituals, vehicles of grace

Sacraments are **visible** signs of an **invisible** reality

Sacraments are expressions of our love for God and God's love for us, expressions of our covenant relationship with God, our need for and reliance upon God, our willingness to serve as members of His Body, a community of believers united in Christ

Sacraments involve the power of the Holy Spirit of God; the true presence of Jesus; God's acceptance, anointing, grace, mercy, love

Sacraments are signs of belief, faith, love, God's presence, the reality that Jesus is the Son of God, the means by which we seek God's favor known as grace (his acceptance, his mercy his forgiveness, his healing, his anointing)

Sacraments use **ordinary** things to point to that which is **extraordinary**. They use the **natural** to point to the **supernatural**, the **tangible** to reach out to the **intangible**. They connect the **human** with the divine, the **created** with the **Creator**

Something is *sacramental* when it brings the reality of God into its midst, when it calls forth the power of God, when it seeks relationship with God. A thing, a place, an act becomes 'sacramental' when God is made a partner to the encounter

Jesus was (is) the 'sacrament' of the Father, the true and visible presence of the one true God here on earth. Jesus is the outward sign of the love of God.

Consider the following thoughts: (no need to write out answers)

How can we be a sacrament unto others ? How can we be a sign of God's love? How can we show the love of God to others, just as Jesus did ?

Do we welcome, do we invite, do we listen, are we tolerant, are we accepting ?

Do we try to encourage, to uplift, to heal, to repair, to bring together ?

Do we act in the interest of others, performing spiritual and corporal works of mercy ?

Do we trust, do we act out of faith, do we truly believe, is our hope in the Lord ?

Sacraments are not magic. We must approach them with faith and purpose. The sacraments can be very powerful in our lives, but not without our active participation, our understanding of their meaning beyond the ritual, our entering in with an attitude of faith and thankfulness, and a desire to draw ever closer to God by committing ourselves to Jesus and His command to love one another. Sacraments should remind us of the part we play in announcing the Kingdom of God. What do we do with the gift of grace we receive in the sacraments ?

Below are scrambled words that represent sacramentals, ordinary things we use that remind us of and unite us to our God. Unscramble the words to reveal these sacramentals. Think of how they can be used in your prayer life or as reminders of the love God has for each of us

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— — — — —

d l c a e n

— — — — —

l o i

— — —

f r u x c i i c

— — — — —

b b i e l

— — — — —

d e b r a

— — — — —

e w n i

— — — — —

t u s t e a

— — — — —

e a c l i h c

— — — — —

a o r s y r e s b a d

— — — — —

Homework : Can you think of any other sacramentals ? Can you name a sacrament you can partake of every day ? Is it likely or unlikely that you would receive all of the 7 sacraments in your lifetime ? Explain your answer.

Parent's signature _____