

Grace, Baptism & Confirmation

Catechist Copy

Preparation:

Hymn: (Vs 1-2): *Come Holy Ghost*

First Reading: Eph. 2:1-10

Psalm 84

Gospel: John 15:9-17

1. Grace

a) Def: Grace is God's life in us(CCC 1997).

- Grace is seen by its fruits
- Grace is powerful – only God can give us His Divine life in our soul
- Grace is not just a state in which to be in or out.
(To be in communion with the Blessed Trinity is the closest possible relationship).

- 2 Types of Grace (CCC 2000)

We Receive Grace:

- a. Through the Sacraments (Sanctifying grace – grace that heals us from sin and sanctifies us)
- b. In Prayer & by responding to God's Will. (Actual Grace – refer to God's interventions, at the beginning of conversion or in the whole process of growing in holiness)

* Grace can be lost through sin and rejected by a refusal to believe.

2. What is a Sacrament?

* Sacraments are sacred signs instituted by Christ through which we receive God's Divine Life (sanctifying grace) in our souls; receiving the sacraments allows us to enter into deeper love/communion with the Blessed Trinity.

* Seven Sacraments – Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist, Confession, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders, Matrimony

3. Baptism is Necessary for Salvation (John 3:3-5)

a) One cannot enter heaven unless one is baptized by water and the spirit.

- John 3:3-5

What does Baptism do?

- Washes away original sin/personal sin – makes us a new creation in Christ. (reborn/adoptive child of God)
- Makes eternal life in Heaven possible
- Gives us access to the Father through Jesus
- Leaves an indelible spiritual mark on our souls
- Incorporates us into the Church – God's family on earth.

b) The Rite:

- Immersion/pouring water on the forehead
- Pronounce invocation – in the name of the Father, the Son & the Holy Spirit.

c) What do we receive at Baptism? 10 Gifts

* At Baptism we receive three Theological Virtues – Faith, Hope & Charity
- Col 1:9-14

1. Faith – supernatural gift that helps us to believe in God.
2. Hope – gift that helps us trust God in the midst of difficult circumstances.
3. Charity – allows us to receive God’s love fully and respond with Christ-like love.

- These gifts are infused by God into the soul and make us capable of acting as His children.

- We also receive seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. (Outlined below)

4. Confirmation - The Sacrament of Confirmation is a Completion of Baptismal Grace, a Strengthening of the Holy Spirit & a Deepening of Union with the Church:

(Eph 1:4-14)

- The three Sacraments of Initiation are: Baptism, Confirmation & Holy Eucharist

How does Confirmation complete Baptismal Grace & Union with the Church?

1. In this sacrament sanctifying grace given at Baptism is matured
2. Confirmation marks the call to apostolic responsibilities – provides supernatural strength to give witness to the Jesus Christ – in prayer, teaching & charitable/pastoral activity.

What effect does Confirmation have on us, personally: (II Cor 1:18-24)

1. Through Confirmation we become more firmly united to Christ.
2. Through Confirmation the three theological virtues: faith, hope and charity are strengthened in us. The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, are also strengthened in us.
3. Through Confirmation our bond with the Church is strengthened.
4. Through Confirmation we are given special strength to spread the truths of Christ & to defend the faith.

The Sacrament of Confirmation is our Personal Pentecost

The Holy Spirit comes and strengthens the 10 Gifts He gave me at Baptism. The grace of Baptism was for my personal sanctification. The grace of Confirmation is to strengthen me to join in

Christ's mission as His disciple.

(Catechism of the Catholic Church 1302-1303)

To be more firmly united to Jesus

To be a witness to the faith by my words and actions

To defend the faith and never be ashamed of the cross

Our bond with the Church is made more perfect

To serve others in need.

Virtue- Good Habit/SupernaturalGift

Definition

Faith	Believe in God – I must make a response.
Hope	Trust in God
Charity	Receive God's love – give God's love love
Knowledge	Space within me for the Holy Spirit
Piety	Know God's perfect order for authentic love
Fortitude	Courage to know & do what is right.
Understanding	Understand who God is.
Right Counsel	God has a plan for my life.
Wisdom	Worship of God in the Holy Eucharist
Fear of the Lord	Loving reverence for God

How can I learn to recognize the inner promptings of the Holy Spirit as He guides me?

- quiet time in prayer – learn how to listen to Him
- God's Will is evident in the fruits of the work (By their fruits you will know them)

The Sacrament of Confirmation is our Personal Pentecost

The _____ comes and strengthens the _____. He gave me at

_____ The grace of Baptism was for my _____ The grace of Confirmation is to strengthen me to join in

(Catechism of the Catholic Church 1302-1303)

To be more firmly united to Jesus

To be a witness to the faith by my words and actions

To defend the faith and never be ashamed of the cross

Our bond with the Church is made more perfect

To serve others in need.

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Virtue- Good Habit/Supernatural Gift

Definition

How can I learn to recognize the inner promptings of the Holy Spirit as He guides me?

Grace, Baptism & Confirmation

1. Grace

a) Def: _____

2. *What is a Sacrament?*

3. Baptism is _____

a) What does Baptism do?

b) Who do we receive at Baptism?

c) What do we receive at Baptism?

4. Confirmation is _____

a)

b)

Why did Jesus Christ give us the seven sacraments?

1. We are created to share in the communion of the Blessed Trinity.
2. Original Sin - we lost grace. (Grace = God's Divine Life = the Holy Spirit)
3. We cannot fix this problem
4. Christ - His Passion, death, Resurrection & Ascension = He earns grace for us
5. Jesus sends Holy Spirit on Pentecost = Church - Sacraments - we receive God's own Life

Why do I need to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation?

Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit, and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. *(CCC Paragraph #1213)*

Through Baptism we are:

1. freed from sin and reborn as children of God;
2. we receive God's Life, (the Holy Spirit), within us and He gives us the ten Gifts ;
3. we become members of the Church.

We are given the 10 Gifts of the Holy Spirit at Baptism for personal sanctification.

The 10 Gifts of the Holy Spirit are Faith, Hope Charity, Knowledge, Fortitude, Understanding, Wisdom, Right Counsel, Piety, Fear of the Lord.

The effect of the **Sacrament of Confirmation** is the full outpouring of the Holy Spirit as once granted to the Apostles on the day of Pentecost. *(CCC Paragraphs 1302-1303)*

From this fact, Confirmation brings an **increase and deepening of Baptismal Grace**:

1. Confirmation unites us more firmly to Christ.
2. increases the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in us.
3. strengthens our bond with the Church
4. the Holy Spirit gives us special strength to spread and defend the Faith

Therefore, the Holy Spirit strengthens the ten Gifts in me in the Sacrament of Confirmation to join in Christ's mission as His true witness to spread and defend the Faith by word and deed, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross.