

RCIA HO Class 6 Introduction to the seven sacraments

An outward sign, instituted by Christ, to give grace. Grace is the divine life or eternal life or God's life.

Sign vs. symbol: e.g. the dove is a symbol of peace, but not a sign of peace. Smoke is a sign (indicates the presence of) fire. Each Sacrament has two parts: Matter (material) and form (words). It involves a minister (either ordinary or extraordinary) and a recipient.

Baptism

Matter = water

Form = "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Sign: water and words.

Symbols: baptismal candle (light of Christ), white garment (purity).

Effects: cleansing from original sin, membership in the Body of Christ (the Church).

Confirmation

Matter = anointing with Chrism and/or with laying on of hands (thumb)

Form = "N., be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit."

Effects: completes the Sacrament of Baptism, imparts a new sacramental character, endows the baptized person with mission (sending forth) within the Church, promotes growth in Christian maturity

Eucharist

Matter = bread and wine

Form (words of institution) = "Take this all of you and eat it; this is my body which will be given up for you". Take this, all of you and drink from it: this is the cup of my Blood, the Blood of the new and everlasting Covenant. It will be shed for you and for all so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me."

Effects: spiritual nourishment, union with Christ, decrease of inclination to sin, forgiveness of venial sins

Penance

Matter (quasi-matter) = two factors: sorrow and penance. OR: two factors expressed in three concepts: contrition, confession, satisfaction.

Contrition (sorrow) = "The sorrow of the soul and the detestation of the sin committed, together with the resolve not to sin any more (Council of Trent)." --vs. attrition (fear). Attrition leads to contrition.

Form "God, the father of mercies, through the death and resurrection of His Son, has reconciled the world to Himself, and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins. Through the ministry of the Church may God grant you pardon and peace and *I absolve you of your sins in the name of the father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*"

Effects: reconciliation with God and the Church. Forgiveness of sins, restoration of the state of grace

Anointing of the Sick (*Extreme Unction*)

Matter = (remote) oil, (proximate) anointing of forehead and palms of hands with the oil.

Form = "Through this holy anointing may the Lord in His love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit." (+). May the Lord who frees you from sin, save you and raise you up." (+)

Effects: uniting of the sick person to the Passion (suffering) of Christ, spiritual healing, forgiveness of sins, spiritual preparation for death, (sometimes physical healing as well).

Holy Orders (ordination)

Matter = laying on of hands

Form = The words the bishop says.

Effects: permanent sacramental character imparted (as with baptism and confirmation i.e. these sacraments cannot be "un-done" nor repeated), power to act in the person of Christ the Head (of His Body - the Church)

Matrimony (Spouses are the ministers, not the priest)

Matter = (not definitive) mutual self-giving of the spouses: transmission of life, mutual love. Or, more simply, the individuals themselves are the matter of the sacrament.

Form = "I, N. take you, N. to be my wife/husband. I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad in sickness and in health. I will love and honor you all the days of my life."

Effects: two are made "one flesh" with a sacramental bond which cannot be dissolved by any human authority

Related topics: valid/invalid matter, defects in form or matter, intention of the Church, disposition of the soul, ordinary/extraordinary minister.

