



Archdiocesan Program

WHY CATHOLIC?

STRENGTHENING FAITH ... MAKING DISCIPLES



THE CHRISTIAN MYSTERY

THE PASCHAL MYSTERY IN THE SACRAMENTS

Biblical Reflection: Ti 2:11-14

“Adhering to the teachings of the Holy Scriptures, to the apostolic traditions, and to the consensus... of

the Fathers,” we profess that “the sacraments of the new law were... all instituted by Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Council of Trent: DS 1601) (CCC 1114)

... The mysteries of Christ’s life and the foundations of what he would henceforth dispense in the sacraments, through the ministers of his Church... (CCC 1115)

Sacraments are “powers that comes forth” from the Body of Christ, which is ever-living and life-giving. They are “the masterworks of God” in the new and everlasting covenant. (CCC 1116)

As she has done for the canon of Sacred Scripture and for the doctrine of the faith, the Church, by the power of the Spirit who guides her “into the truth,” has gradually recognized this treasure received from Christ and, as the faithful steward of God’s mysteries, has determined its “dispensation.” Thus the Church has discerned over the centuries that among liturgical celebrations there are seven that are, in the strict sense of the term, sacraments instituted by the Lord. (CCC 1117)

Celebrated worthily in faith, the sacraments confer the grace that they signify. They are efficacious because in them Christ himself is at work; it is he who baptizes, he who acts in his sacraments in order to communicate the grace that each sacrament signifies... (CCC 1127)

The fruit of sacramental life is both personal and ecclesial. For every one of the faithful on the one hand, this fruit is life for God in Christ Jesus; for the Church, on the other, it is an increase in charity and in her mission of witness. (CCC1134)

“The People of God is formed into one in the first place by the Word of the living God... The preaching of the Word is required for the sacraments of faith, drawing their origin and nourishment from the Word” Vatican Council II, PO 4. (CCC 1122)

Questions for discussion:

- **What do the Sacraments mean to you?**
- **What memories do you have of your Baptism, First Confession and Communion, Confirmation, or Matrimony?**
- **Have you experienced the ecclesial or communitarian aspect of the sacraments?**
- **Have you ever felt God’s grace through the Sacraments? Share your experiences.**
- **How the sacraments that celebrate the different stages of our life relate to Jesus’ own life?**

Further reading: Catechism of the Catholic Church, numbers 1113-1134