



Sacraments of Healing



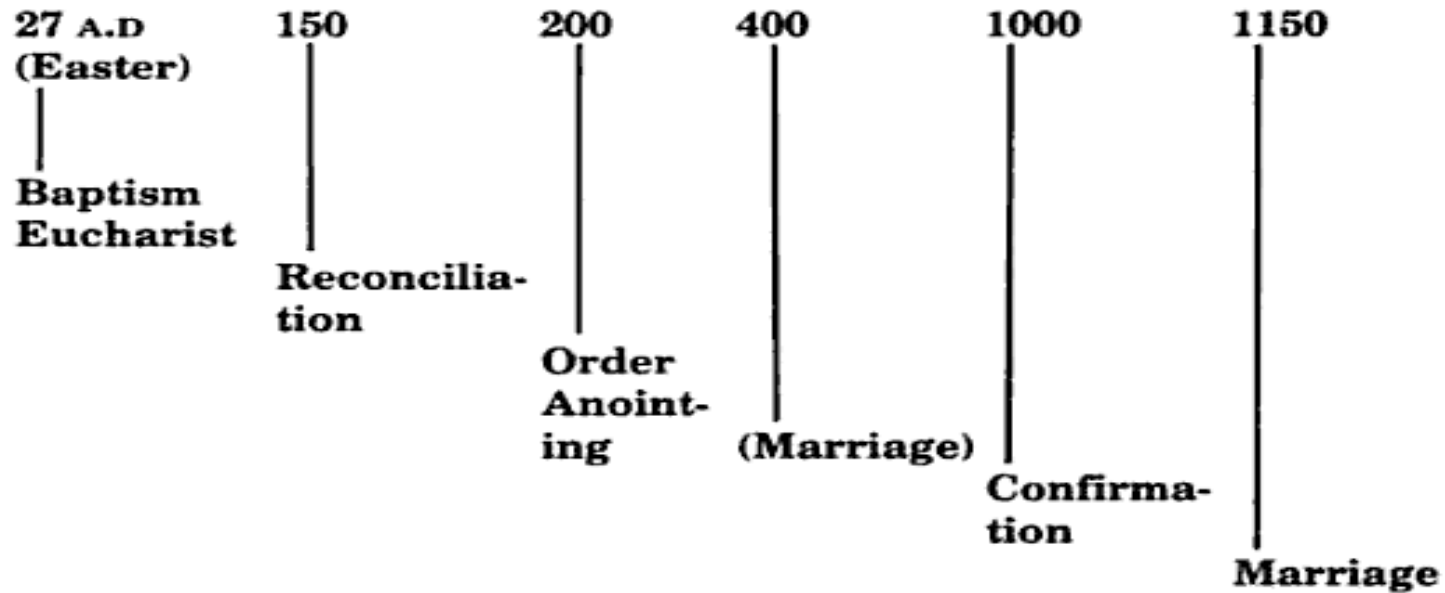
Generations of Faith

Session #5

Review Basics of a Sacrament?

- **Definitions:**
 - Latin: *sacramentum*; Greek: *mysterion*
 - Rites/rituals performed in/by the Church, to convey God's "grace" to believers
- **Number of Sacraments?**
 - Catholics & Orthodox, (Some Anglicans) Christians: **seven**
 - Most Reformed: only **two** (Bapt. & Euch.)
- **Aspects of each Sacrament:**
 - Effects & Ministers
 - Biblical Basis
 - Central Words & Actions

The Development of the Sacramental Life



The actual dates are generalized. Baptism and Eucharist clearly go back to the time of Jesus and there is data for this in the New Testament itself. It is with the writings of Hermes (140–150) that we have the first clear reference to a rite of reconciliation after baptism. It is with the *Apostolic Tradition* of Hippolytus (c. 215) that we have the first extant ordination ritual and a clear indication of ordination. In the same work we have the first clear indication of a blessing of oil for the sick. . (Cf. Doors to the Sacred by J. Martos)

Baptism

- **Effects:**

- Gk. *baptizo* = “dipped/immersed” in water.
- Becoming a member of Christ’s Church.
- Having one’s sins forgiven.

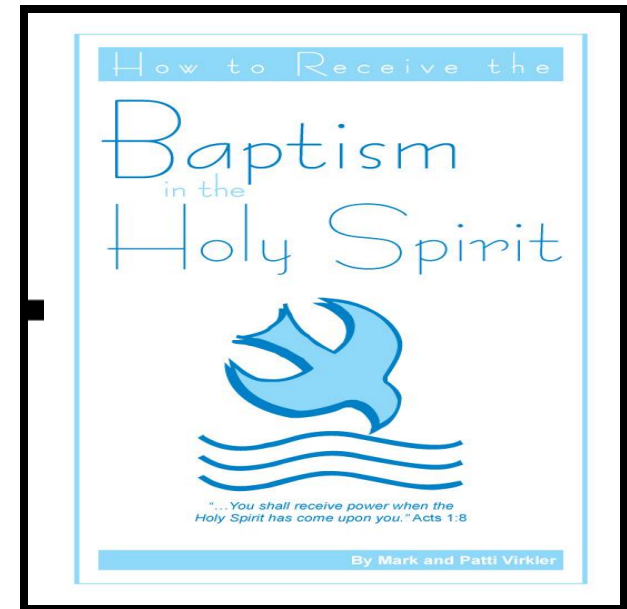
Ministers:

- Bishops
- Priests
- Deacons
- **Anyone!** (*in case of urgent need*)
- *“I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”*

Elements/Symbols: chrism,
water;
candles, white garment

Scripture:

1. Matt 28:19
2. Acts 2:38-41;
3. 10:47-48



Eucharist

- Effects:
 - Spiritually nourished by body & blood of Christ.
 - United "in communion" with Christ & community.
 - Gk. *Eucharistia* = "thanksgiving" prayer
- Ministers:
 - Bishops
 - Priests - "*This is my body...*" "*This is my blood...*" "*Send Your Holy Spirit Down Upon These Gifts that they may be...*"

Elements/Symbols: Bread and wine ;

Scripture:

1. Mark 14:22-25
2. Matt 26;
3. Luke 22;
4. 1 Cor 11;
5. John 6:48-58



Confirmation



- **Effects:**

- Strengthened by the Holy Spirit.
- “Confirmed” in the fullness of Christian faith

- **Ministers:**

- **Bishops** - *“(Name), be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.”*
- **Priests** (*in cases of special delegation*)

Elements/Symbols: Chrism Oil, Laying on of Hands

Scripture:

1. John 20:22:
2. Acts 8:17; 19:6
3. Acts 10:44-48

2 Sacraments of Healing

Why Healing?

- What is the difference between healing and a cure?
- Healing involves the spirit while a cure is entirely physical. A cure assumes a single, correct answer. Healing is multi-faceted. Healing also suggests a path toward increased wellness.
- It means letting go of anger and finding hope. They need not oppose each other but can work together towards achieving increasing quality of life.

1. Penance/Reconciliation

2. Anointing of the Sick

The Biblical Basis

- If suffering is an important part of Jesus' mission, so too, is healing.
- Jesus heals the lepers (Mt. 8:3), the crippled (Mt. 11:5), and the dying (Mt. 9:18-34).
- He restores sight to the blind (Mk. 10:46-52) and life to the dead (Lk. 7:11).
- He also forgives sinners (Lk. 7:47 ; Mt. 2:5).



The Ministry of Reconciliation Comes from Jesus Christ Himself

- Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,

“Receive the holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.”

John 20:21-23

God Alone Forgives Sin

- The Christian life is marked by lifelong conversion
- Even though forgiveness is expressed through the Church and this Sacrament, God alone forgives sin



The Essence of Reconciliation is

- It renews, restores, and strengthens our relationship with God and the community after it has been damaged by sin.
- It shows that God's love is without limits
- *Also Known as Penance and Confession*



Spirituality of Reconciliation

- Today when we speak of the individual dimension of the sacrament of penance means that we must be ever open to the Lord, laying bare the unconverted, unreconciled, wounded, even rather ugly and selfish side of our lives to him and his healing forgiveness, which are given through the church.
- To discover where we are in our Christian life, it is necessary periodically to examine ourselves prayerfully, to see how we are responding to the gospel.

I go to Confession at the Liturgy

- The nature of the penitential rite does effect that that venial sins are forgiven during this rite; as well as by receiving Communion and by the other intercessory prayers of Mass.

This forgiveness is due to the general reparatory nature of all positive acts of prayer, sacrifice, devotion and worship which in some way create a positive counterbalance to those common sins, defects and imperfections which plague our daily lives.

However what is offered is a pardon not an absolution and as such serious sins cannot be considered as confessed and amended.

Why do we need Reconciliation:

- As early as the Didache (written ca 90-100 AD) the confession of sins is prescribed before the Sunday celebration of the Eucharist: *“On the Lord’s day gather together, break bread and give thanks after confessing your transgressions so that your sacrifice may be pure. Let no one who has a quarrel with his neighbor join you until he is reconciled, lest your sacrifice defiled. For this is that which was proclaimed by the Lord, “In every place and time let there be offered to Me a clean Sacrifice’* .
- The tradition of the church according to which Christians, alienated by serious sin from the Lord and his body, the church, were "excommunicated" until they had done penance.



Essential Elements of Penance

- The steps of the person who undergoes the sacrament
 - Examination
 - Confession
 - Contrition
 - Acts of Penance
- The ministry of the Church
 - Counsel and Absolution from the priest



Honesty and Integrity

- The faithful who are aware of grave sin should celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation before presenting themselves for communion.
- While the faithful struggling with ordinary sinful lives may find assurance that their participation at Mass will grant forgiveness through word, gesture and sacrament, the sacrament of reconciliation is advised for at least during Lent with a very thorough Examination of Conscience.

What are the 2 kinds of sin?

- **Mortal Sin:**

Murders the love in you and your relationship with God. Serious evil is done, knowingly. You need the Sacrament to restore your relationship with God.

- **Venial Sin:**

smaller sins that **W**ound your ability to love others, and to relate to God. Venial sins are also those serious (mortal) sins that you did, without knowing that what you did was evil.



Do you know what the 2 kinds of sin are?

Do you know what the 4 stages of the
Sacrament of Reconciliation?

This is essential to understand how the
Sacrament helps people.

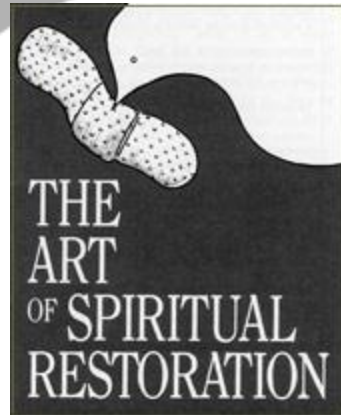
Nature of Sin

- **Mortal Sin:**

Completely Severs the love in you and your relationship with God. Serious evil is done, knowingly. You need the Sacrament to restore your relationship with God.

Venial Sin:

These sins that wound our ability to love others, and to relate to God.



Importance of the Sacrament of Reconciliation

- What difference does it make? What are *you* like after the Sacrament?
 1. Closer relationship to God
 2. Forgiven: Closer to receiving salvation
 3. Better self esteem: a peaceful, happy conscience
 4. Spiritually stronger to fight sin and evil
 5. Reconciled with people in your community

Rank these reasons from the ones that are most important to you, to the less important. Explain why you chose this order.

Anointing of the Sick

- Generations of Faith in February

