

**PARISH FAMILY ABLAZE (1-29-23): BALTIMORE CATECHISM NO. 2  
PART 3, LESSON 23—THE SACRAMENTS**

- I. Prayers
  - A. “Signum Crucis”: “In nomine Patris et Filii et Spiritus Sancti. Amen.”
  - B. “Prayer to the Holy Spirit” (Inside Front Cover)
  - C. Saint and Virtue:
    1. Saint John Bosco
    2. Gratitude
- II. Choose the Best Answer (Pages 149-150)/Fill in the Blank (Page 150, numbers 1, 3, 4, 5, 6)
- III. Sacrament—An outward sign instituted by Christ to give grace: Comes to us from the Father through His Son in the power of the Holy Spirit
  - A. Past—Passion of Christ (Merits) = Source of Grace
  - B. Present—Grace received = Life of Christ in Us
  - C. Future—Goal of Grace = Sharing in the Glory of the Risen Christ
  - D. Seven Sacraments—Sanctifying Grace/Sacramental Grace

**FOR INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF CHRIST’S BODY**

1. Baptism—Spiritual Birth as a Child of God the Father
  - a. Raises those “dead” in original sin to life in sanctifying grace
  - b. Helps us to live as children of God, makes it easier to believe in God and act in accord with Faith, and lessens our inclination to evil
2. Confirmation—Spiritual Strength of Adulthood
  - a. Strengthens a soul already spiritually alive
  - b. Give us strength to profess our faith even under difficulties and persecutions, and to give good example to others
3. Holy Eucharist—Nourishment for the Soul
  - a. Nourishes a soul already alive spiritually
  - b. Nourishes our love for God and for one another, and helps us overcome the selfishness of our fallen nature
4. Penance—Medicine for the soul to heal it from sin or CPR to resuscitate a dead soul
  - a. Raises a dead soul or heals and sick soul

- b. Helps to cure the deeper inclinations to evil that actual sins have put in our souls and makes it easier for us to keep out of sin in the future
- 5. Anointing of the Sick—Ultimate recovery of the soul from the illness of sin by the power of suffering and even of death through union with Christ’s suffering and death
  - a. Prepares and perfects a soul already spiritually alive for eternal rest
  - b. Helps us to accept sickness as a purifying cross sent by God and even to accept death willingly from His hands whenever He chooses to send it

### **FOR THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH’S MEMBERS**

- 6. Holy Orders—Provides priests to serve souls through teaching, ruling, and sanctifying them
    - a. Sustains and strengthens living souls in word, worship, and grace
    - b. Helps a priest to fulfill his sacred duties and to be a good priests
  - 7. Matrimony—Increases membership in the Mystical Body of Christ
    - a. Parents encourage one another in lives of holiness and charity, and they have and raise children to live lives of holiness and charity
    - b. Helps married people to bear with each other’s defects and to fulfill the duties of their state—chiefly bringing children into the world and rearing them for God
  - E. Right Disposition to Receive Sacraments:
    - 1. Problem of an obex
    - 2. Sacrilege—receiving a Sacrament in a state of mortal sin
  - F. Sacraments that can be received only once and imprint on the soul a spiritual seal or mark (character)—Baptism/Confirmation/Holy Orders
- IV. Discussion Questions:
- A. What is required for a person to have a proper disposition to receive the Sacrament of Penance and to receive Holy Communion?

- B. Why is it fitting that we have Seven Sacraments—what makes the number “seven” significant, and what makes each Sacrament appropriate in regard to our lives and needs?
- V. Mission/Prayer and Blessing