

**PARISH FAMILY ABLAZE (9-17-23): BALTIMORE CATECHISM
PART 3—LESSON 23**

PRAYERS

- I. “Sign of the Cross” (English)
- II. “Our Father” (p. 5)
- III. Saint and Virtue:
 - A. Saint Augustine of Hippo
 - B. Faith

TRUE/FALSE

- 1. Sacraments always give grace if a person receives them with the right dispositions.
- 2. If I knowingly receive a sacrament of the living (Confirmation, Holy Eucharist, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders, Matrimony) in a state of mortal sin, I commit sacrilege, which deepens my condemnation and blocks the grace I would otherwise receive.
- 3. Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders imprint on the soul a spiritual mark, called a character, which lasts only while a person is on Earth.
- 4. Sacraments were instituted originally by the Church through the Apostles.
- 5. We do not need grace to live stably in holiness; grace just helps.
- 6. We know Mary is appropriately called Source of Grace because Gabriel called her “full of grace.”
- 7. Like Catholics, Lutherans recognize there are Seven Sacraments.
- 8. Even though each of us will not receive all seven of the Sacraments, all seven exist for the benefit of all of us.
- 9. Grace is divine life in our souls.
- 10. Continuous growth in the life of grace can be called either sanctification or divinization.

SACRAMENTS—LESSON 23

- IV. Sacrament— “An outward sign instituted by Christ to give grace” (304).
 - A. Source = Passion of Christ (Past)
 - B. Grace = Life of Christ in Us (Present)
 - C. Destiny = Sharing in the Glory of the Risen Christ (Future)

D. From God the Father, through the merits of Christ, His Son, the Sacraments give us both sanctifying and sacramental grace in the power of the Holy Spirit as divine life in our souls (divinization)

V. The Seven Sacraments:

Sacraments of Christian Initiation

- A. Baptism (Once)—re-birth spiritually by adoption and grace to live as a child of God the Father:
 - 1. Makes it easier for us to believe in God and act accordingly
 - 2. Lessens our inclination to evil
- B. Confirmation (Once)—spiritual strengthening to become faithful adults
 - 1. Increases our strength to profess the Faith
 - 2. Increases our ability to act in accord with the Faith
- C. Holy Eucharist—provides spiritual nourishment
 - 1. Nourishes our love for God and others
 - 2. Helps us overcome our selfishness to offer our lives in sacrifice to God and in service to others

Sacraments of Healing

- D. Penance—Medicine to heal our soul of wounds caused by sin
 - 1. Helps cure the deeper inclinations to evil
 - 2. Makes it easier to keep us out of sin in the future
- E. Anointing of the Sick—restores health of the soul sickened by sin
 - 1. Helps us to accept sickness as a purifying cross sent by God
 - 2. Helps us eventually to accept death willingly from God's hands whenever He chooses to receive our souls

Sacraments in Service of Communion and Mission

- F. Holy Orders (Once, with three grades)—provides new clergy to teach, rule, and sanctify the members of the Mystical Body
 - 1. Helps clergy to fulfill their sacred duties
 - 2. Helps clergy to remain holy and charitable

G. Matrimony—provides new members for the Mystical Body and helps couples to establish domestic churches as salt, light, and leaven in communities

1. Helps each spouse bear the defects of the other spouse
2. Helps couples fulfill the duties of their state in life:
 - a. To have and raise children
 - b. To evangelize catechize and form children to be saints

DISCUSSION QUESTION

Why is it fitting that we have Seven Sacraments, rather than fewer or more?
Which is your favorite Sacrament, and why?

QUESTIONS FOR FATHER JACK

MISSION AND BLESSING