

THE SPIRIT AND THE SACRAMENTS

SEGMENT 8

SYNOPSIS

"Amen, amen I say to you, No one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of the Spirit." - John 3:5

The Sacraments are always an encounter with the Holy Spirit and each and every time we come to the Sacrament the Holy Spirit is present. Often times when we think of the Holy Spirit and His work in the Sacraments we only think of Confirmation. This is great, but the Holy Spirit is present in all of them. In this segment we will look at how the Holy Spirit is present in the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and marriage and how this can impact your life.

DISCUSSION

1. Consider the beauty in the Sacrament of baptism; you have been created anew and brought into the center of the Holy Trinity. Baptism is the gateway to a life in the Holy Spirit. What does a "life in the Holy Spirit" look like? Not merely an experience of the Holy Spirit, but a life in the Holy Spirit. A baptized Christian's life should look different from a non-baptized. Does yours?
2. A grace of Confirmation is the ability to spread the faith by words and actions. Was this your experience of Confirmation? Perhaps that grace needs to be stirred up?
3. In Marriage the couple receives this Holy Spirit. What does it mean that the Holy Spirit is "the ever available source of their love"? For those married, how do you as a couple seek the Holy Spirit?

REFLECTION

Come Holy Spirit.

In baptism you have been grafted to Christ. Ask the Holy Spirit to place on your heart that you have been baptized into the death and resurrection of Jesus. Because of this, your soul is now branded, configured to Christ. It is not you who live, but Christ who lives in you.

Allow the Spirit to reveal Jesus' saving work in your life. For those married, pray for the grace of the Holy Spirit to be

THE
GATEWAY
TO LIFE
CCC 1213

more present in your marriage and look for signs of the Holy Spirit's work.

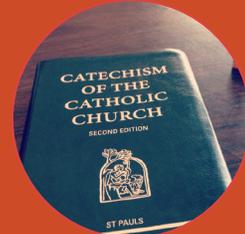


Photo by Reverend Culture

"HOLY BAPTISM IS THE BASIS OF THE WHOLE CHRISTIAN LIFE, THE GATEWAY TO LIFE IN THE SPIRIT AND THE DOOR WHICH GIVES ACCESS TO THE OTHER SACRAMENTS."

-CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH 1213-

KEY TEXTS

ACTS 8:6-17 "...and prayed for them, that they might receive the holy Spirit, for it had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them and they received the holy Spirit."

CCC 1303 "The grace of confirmation, the specific effects of Confirmation are noted: an increase and deepening of baptismal grace: rooting us more deeply in the divine relationship which makes us cry, 'Abba! Father!' increasing the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us, and giving us "a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ."

CCC 1624 "In this sacrament the spouses receive the Holy Spirit as the communion of love of Christ & the Church. The Holy Spirit is the seal of their covenant, the ever available source of their love & the strength to renew their fidelity."