

The Sacraments: Our Points of Contact with Jesus Christ

Session 4: The Sacraments of Healing: Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick

Review-

- Baptism- Connects us with the very life of God
- Confirmation- Seals us with the gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Eucharist- Allows us to receive the Sacramental Presence of God in our very bodies
- Holy Orders- Makes present the Headship of Christ and allows us to live in Communion with the Church
- Marriage- Makes present Christ in the free, faithful, fruitful and total love that the man and woman share with each other

The Sacrament of Reconciliation or Confession or Penance or Forgiveness or Conversion

- All of these are correct titles
- Comes to us from the Scriptures
 - o "Who's sins you forgive are forgiven them." John 20:23
 - o "Confess your sins to one another." James 5:16
- Contact with Christ is seen visibly as one has to go to Christ in the Church and the priest to confess
- The penitent hears the words "I absolve you of your sins" as if hearing Christ speak first person to him or her
- The relationship with Christ, relationship with others and the relationship with the Church is restored through confession
- The acts of the penitent in confession
 - o Contrition- the penitent is sorry for his or her sins
 - o Confession- the penitent admits his or her sins
 - o Satisfaction- the penitent does some penance for the sins committed
- Confession allows us to have visible and audible contact with Christ
- Confession allows the penitent to be more fully conformed to Christ and thus more able to bring his presence to others
 - o Prayer of Absolution
"God, the Father of mercies, through the death and resurrection of his Son has reconciled the world to himself and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins; through the ministry of the Church may God give you pardon and peace, and **I absolve you** from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."
- There are 3 forms of confessions
 - o Liturgy with individual confessions
 - o Individual confessions
 - o General Absolution only in grave necessity, like troops before a battle
- Confession guidance
 - o Say at the end "For these and all my sins, I am sorry."
 - o Different ways of utilizing the Sacrament, like a dump truck or like sifting through sand
 - o Say more serious sins first and get them off your mind
 - o Don't worry about shocking the priest
 - o You can go either behind the screen or face to face, I find I am able to give better guidance face to face
 - o Trust the Holy Spirit is at work, as I have noticed his guidance very strongly in this Sacrament

The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick

- Commonly referred to as “Last Rites”
- It may be a part of “Last Rites” but it is not strictly speaking always last rites
- It may be administered multiple times over the course of one’s life
- It brings about healing, especially spiritual and sometimes physical
- It forgives venial sins
- It is meant to give strength in the time of trial
- Foundation for the Sacrament is found in the letter of James
 - “Is any among you sick? Let him call for the presbyters of the Church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith will save the sick man, and the Lord will raise him up; and if he has committed any sins, he will be forgiven them.” James 5:14-15
- The priest lays hands on the sick, giving them contact with Christ
- The Sacrament is for anyone who is gravely ill or before a serious surgery
- Along with the Sacrament, the Eucharist as Viaticum (food for the journey) may be given
- There are prayers for the dying as well as the Apostolic Pardon that may be given near death
- Beautiful Sacrament that allows Christ to have contact with those hurting and facing the unknown
- Brings comfort and peace in the midst of turmoil
- Need to help people realize that when we celebrate this Sacrament it doesn’t necessarily mean that it is the end of their lives