

Saint Raymond RCIA The Sacrament of Baptism

Before you watch the video teaching....

What has been your experiences of seeing BAPTISMS (catholic or protestant) – what do you remember?

Outline of Teaching

1. The Sacraments are broken into three areas:
 - a. Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation & Eucharist
 - b. Healing: Penance & Anointing of the Sick
 - c. Service: Marriage & Holy Orders
2. The Role of the Sacraments of Initiation
 - a. The foundation of Christian life.
 - b. The initiation is reality; understanding comes with time.
3. **A Sacrament is an outward sign instituted by Christ to give grace.**
 - a. Outward sign: *pouring of water over the head (or immersion into the water) while saying I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.*
 - b. Instituted by Christ: *Christ gave the apostles the command to go into all the world and baptize people*
 - c. Baptism give grace: *Baptism gives two primary graces – the forgiveness of sin (original and actual) and membership in the Church*
4. Why is it called Baptism?
 - a. It comes from the Greek word *baptizein* which means *to plunge or immerse*
 - b. It recalls the experience of death to sin and rising with Christ.
5. Baptism in the Jewish Faith
 - a. The necessity of ritual cleanings before offering sacrifice/prayer (in a MIKVAH)
 - b. The “baptism” of John the Baptist at the Jordan (symbolic “starting over”)
6. How is Baptism Celebrated?
 - a. The actual ritual of baptism has been changed and adapted over the years. The basic format has been consistent: proclaim God’s Word, accept the Gospel call to conversion, profession of the faith, Baptism, and outpouring of the Holy Spirit through anointing (confirmation) and admission to the Eucharist. The Latin Church moved Confirmation and Eucharist to a later point (and changed the order of reception as well).
 - b. The Ritual for the Baptism of Children:
 - i. Child is met at the doors of the Church with parents
 - ii. Giving of a name, request for Baptism and Signing with the Cross
 - iii. Proclamation of the Word with Intercessions
 - iv. Prayer of Exorcism and Anointing with the Oil of Catechumens
 - v. Blessing of Water and Renewal of Baptismal Promises

- vi. Baptism (immersion or pouring water over head)
 - vii. Anointing with Chrism
 - 1. Priest – the call to offer sacrifice
 - 2. Prophet – the call to speak the truth and witness to Christ
 - 3. King – the call to serve others and thus build the Kingdom
 - viii. Clothing with the White Garment
 - ix. The Baptismal Candle
 - x. The Ephaphtha
 - xi. Lord’s Prayer & Blessing
7. Who can receive Baptism?
- a. Anyone who desires baptism, has not been baptized and has been “prepared”.
 - b. Why baptize infants when they are not making the choice themselves?
 - c. The Jewish people are “born into the covenant”; Christian children share in this same blessing of grace.
 - d. The support and example of parents and godparents.
8. Who can Baptize?
- a. The “ordinary” minister: bishop, priest or deacon.
 - b. The “extraordinary” minister: anyone (even a non-Christian); they must have the intention to do what the Church wants, use the proper words and pour water over the head.
 - c. What about someone baptizing a child whose parents will not take the child to be baptized?
9. The Necessity of Baptism
- a. Jesus is pretty clear!
 - b. What about those who are not baptized before they die?
10. The Grace of Baptism
- a. Forgiveness of sins – original and actual
 - b. Membership in the Body of Christ, the Church
 - c. The Indelible Mark on the soul – you can’t be “unbaptized”

Questions for Reflection & Sharing

- What points from the teaching are making you think?
- If you were already baptized, do you feel a need to “recommit” yourself before becoming a Catholic?
- As you look at your life, are you living as a Priest (offering sacrifice), a Prophet (speaking the truth) and a King (serving others)?
- What questions for you still have about Baptism?