

INTRODUCTION TO LITURGY AND THE SACRAMENTS

Notes for the Bishop Barron presentation “The Sacraments”

Jesus is present to us by the Sacraments of the Church, ministering to His people

Healing, nourishing, and anointing them

The 7 Sacraments are not symbols of Christ—they are encounters with Him

This encounter with Christ begins with Baptism

The baptized person is changed by being immersed into the life of Christ

Thereby becoming a child of God

Sacraments are the most important things in the world

The Sacraments are the privileged ways that Christ continues to be present to his people and to share (give them) His life

What was visible in our Savior has now passed into our Sacraments (,mysteries) Pope Leo

Fundamental Sacrament—The Church itself

7 Sacraments are means by which it expresses itself

Church is not a club

The mystical body of Jesus

Human Nature 2000 years ago; now that same Word takes to itself a mystical body

To Saul: Why are you persecuting “me”?

Shows intimate connection between Christ and his mystical body—the Church

Matthew 25—you do to me

Matter==material, some “stuff”, wine, water, imposed hands

Form==specified words that clarify the meaning of the thing or gesture

Incarnational: the Word became flesh

Grace: gift;

Sacraments—visible signs of an invisible grace

The invisible grace is the divine life, relationship Jesus wants to share with us, his mystical body

Visible church with rites and sacraments that are channels of invisible grace--St John Henry

Newman

Ex opere operato—from the work, worked

Sacraments by their nature objectively communicate to us grace

Doesn't depend on our objectivity or the moral integrity of the minister

St Augustine against the Donatists—from the nature of the sacrament grace is conferred

St Pope Martin V: a bad priest who uses the correct matter and form and has the intention of doing what the church does truly performs the Eucharist, absolves, baptizes....

God is not constrained by the rites of the Catholic Church—God is God and can act outside
of the restrictions of the sacraments

Character Sacraments—permanent configuration: baptism, confirmation, holy orders

Initiation—baptism, confirmation, Eucharist

Healing—reconciliation and anointing of the sick

Vocation—matrimony and holy orders

Come and Go

Come to me, follow me—draws people in to change them, configure them to himself

Go—go out into the world, preach, baptize, tell the Good News (gospel)