



Baptism - Defining Moment of Our  
Relationship with God & Source of Our Identity

Family Catechesis  
(Parent Portion)

January 8 & 15, 2023



# Opening Prayer

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Having been buried with Christ unto death and raised up with him unto a new life, I promise to live no longer for myself or for that world which is the enemy of God but for him who died for me and rose again, serving God, my heavenly Father, faithfully and unto death in the holy Catholic Church.

**-from *Prayer for Renewal of Baptism***

# CATECHISM *of the* CATHOLIC CHURCH

SECOND EDITION

*revised in accordance with the official Latin text  
promulgated by Pope John Paul II*

*contains glossary and analytical index*



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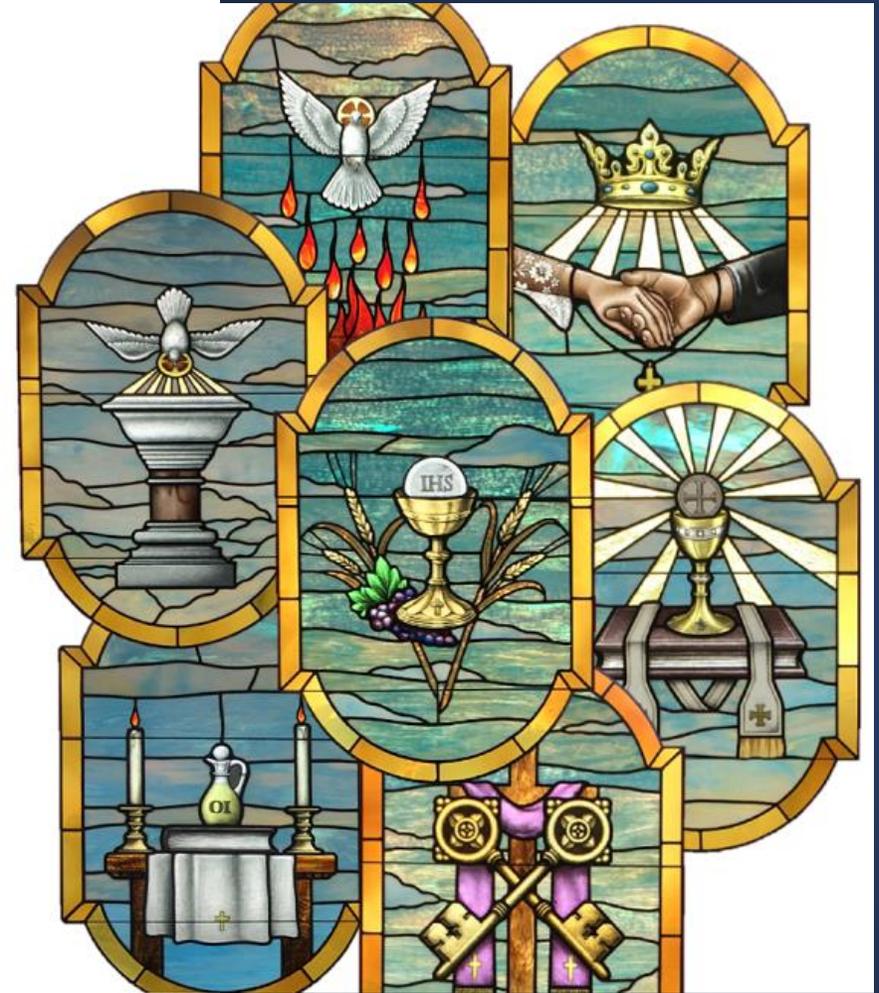
## Definition of “Sacrament”

- “An efficacious sign of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us through the work of the Holy Spirit.”
- OTHER: “An outward sign of an inward grace”.
- OTHER: “An external sign of an internal reality.”

# Large Group Discussion

What are the seven Sacraments?

- Baptism
- Confirmation
- Eucharist
- Reconciliation
- Anointing of the Sick
- Matrimony
- Holy Orders



- CCC 1210 says, “The seven sacraments touch all the stages and all the important moments of Christian life...There is thus a certain resemblance between the stages of natural life and the stages of spiritual life.”

<b>SPIRITUAL STAGE</b>	<b>NATURAL STAGE</b>
Baptism	Birth
Confirmation	Maturation
Eucharist	Day-to-day Sustenance
Reconciliation	Day-to-day Forgiveness
Holy Orders	Vocation of Adult Life
Marriage	
Anointing of the Sick	Illness & Old Age



## Elements of Every Sacrament

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- Form (the words)
- Matter (the “stuff”)
- Ordinary Minister
- The Effect (the specific graces received)
  
- Why the effect is dependent upon the other three



# My Own Baptism

- January 19, 1975
- “Remembering the day” even though I was only a few days old
- Returning to the font
- Showing gratitude to the giver of the gift
- Annual celebration of my baptismal anniversary
- Ongoing link to this small rural parish – why sacramental records are such a big deal

# Your Own Memories

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- What do you remember from your own Baptism (whether direct memories or based on stories you've heard)?
- Similarly, what memories do you have of your children's Baptisms?
- How did having your children baptized affect your own living of your baptismal promises?
- What ongoing impact has your Baptism had in your life?
- Do you remember the date of your Baptism; if yes, how do you celebrate it?



# Which is More Significant?

The Story of King Louis of Poissy



Rheims



Poissy



Louis' Anointing  
Nov. 8, 1226

“I think more of the place where I was baptized than of Reims Cathedral where I was crowned. It is a greater thing to be a child of God than to be the ruler of a Kingdom. This last I shall lose at death but the other will be my passport to an everlasting glory.”

- **St. Louis**



Louis' Baptism  
April 12, 1214



# Differences in Relationships

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- List some of the different relationships we enter into?
- How are those various relationships different?
- What is the determining factor in defining a particular relationship?
- **Isn't it all about WHO we are in relationship with?**



# What's Relationship All About?

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- What elements are necessary if you were to truly be in a relationship with someone?
- How is being in a relationship with someone different from just knowing about a person?
- How does relationship require some sort of equality (*think about the possibility of having a “relationship” with a plant or dog*)?
- How does being in a relationship impact who you are (*think about how your identity has been transformed based on your relationship with your spouse*)?

***Answer the questions based on all sorts of relationship that we enter into and not just about Baptism (which is foundational for our relationship with God).***



What are some words that directly or indirectly indicate a relationship?

- Father
- Child
- Friend
- Our
- We
- Family
- Love
- Others?

# Entering into the Relationship of the Trinity

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- God is in relationship – the Trinity
- We are made in the image and likeness of God; so we, too, were made for relationship.
- Being made for relationship with other creatures isn't enough; through our Baptism, God invites us to be a participant in the Trinitarian relationship that has existed before the beginning of time.





# What? vs. Who?

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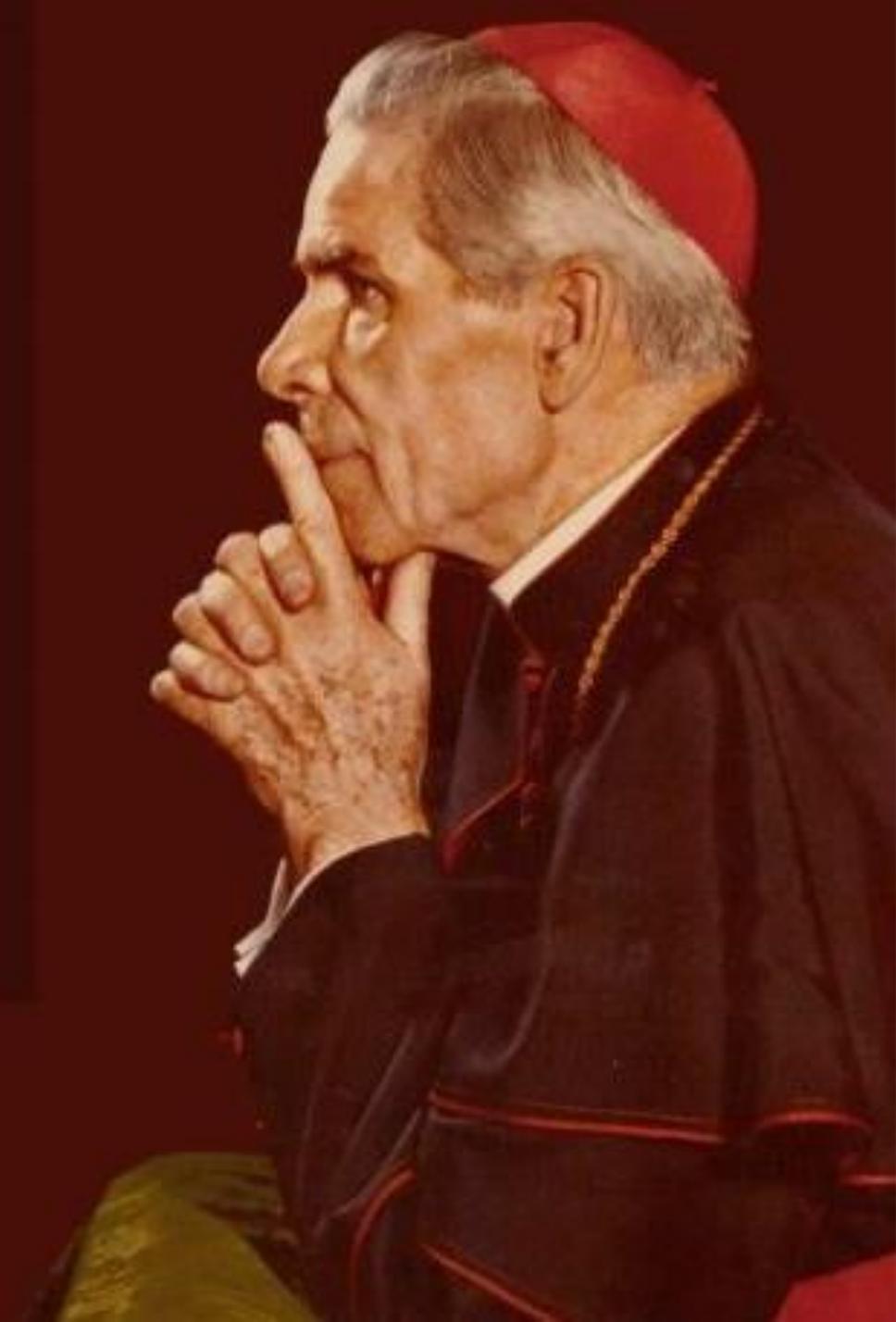
- What is this?
- Who is this? (*with caveat: you can't use any relational words*)
- What's the difference between being a "**what**" and a "**who**"?
- In light of that, what (or rather, Who) is the source of our identity?
- Relationship must always come first...identify flows from it.
- As a result, if we truly want to understand who we are, we must come to know better who *God* is.

# What a Difference!

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- What's our relationship with God BEFORE Baptism?
- What's our relationship with God AFTER Baptism?





# Wisdom from Fulton Sheen

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“The difference between mere human life and human life rendered deiform by grace is not one of development but of generation. The source of life in both cases is as different as human and divine paternity. The distance, that separates some minerals from the vegetable kingdom, may be only a hair’s breadth – but the distance that separates human life and divine life is infinite.”

- *The Holy Hour: Reading and Prayers for a Daily Hour of Meditation*

# Adoption – The Gift of Rights of an Heir

- For a Jew, it also meant entering into your father’s bloodline
- Not a lesser member of the family
- Gift of the Father, not something “deserved”
- After receiving that gift, rightful claims of an heir – share in all that the Father has (participate in His life)
- “See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.” (1 John 3:1)



# Jesus' Baptism, Our Baptism

- Baptism is the gateway to the whole Christian Life. It is the basis of all the other sacraments (CCC 1213).
- It is the foundation of communion among all Christians (CCC 1271).

# Renunciation of Sin & Baptismal Promises



Story of Florence Baptistery & *Paradiso*



# The Baptism Rite

- Anointing with Holy Chrism – shows that we are a priestly people, a royal people preparing for the kingdom of God.
- The white garment – symbolizes putting on Christ (Gal 3:27)
- The white candle – reminds us of the immortality of the soul and that we are to be a light to the world for Jesus.

# The grace or effects of Baptism

## CCC 1262-1270

*There are many very important effects that happen to us at baptism. It is important to see how all of them are connected to our relationship with God & our true identity as His adopted sons and daughters.*

1. Through Baptism we have the possibility of eternal life. (This is a gift from God and not a human right.) ***Family members have a room in the family home.***
2. We are given the forgiveness of sins from the past and the promise of forgiveness in the future if we repent. ***Regardless of things I may do, my being a child of God can't be taken away, even if the relationship is strained.***
3. The effect of original sin - the loss of eternal life – is removed.

one FAITH,  
one LORD,  
one BAPTISM.



## The Grace/Effects of Baptism

4. We become new creatures: a dwelling place for the Holy Trinity.  
-We become part of the Mystical Body of Christ. He lives in us and we in Him. Thus, we are incorporated into the Church.
5. We are given the virtues of Faith, Hope and Love.
6. We are signed with an indelible spiritual mark. This signifies that one belongs to Christ... FOREVER!



# The Grace of Baptism

- Original sin is removed at baptism, but the lasting effects of it are not.
- This is what makes our life as Christians a struggle. We have to carry our cross and fight the good fight.
- We fight the spiritual battle against:
  - The darkening of the intellect
  - The weakness of the will
  - Emotional Confusion
  - Discord in human relationships

# Small Group Discussion

What are some ways we can convey these truths about Baptism in:

- Our own relationship with our children in day-to-day interactions
- Things we say to our children that remind them of their true identity (both when they've done something great and when they've fallen short)
- Dinner-table conversations (especially on days like the Baptism of the Lord, Easter, etc.)
- In participation/attendance at the Baptism of others
- In speaking about those preparing for Baptism in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)
- In celebrating the anniversary of Baptisms and Confirmation of family members
- In preparation for going to Mass together or going to Confession as a family