



Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

EPISODE 5: THE CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

Opening Prayer

O God of unchanging power and eternal light,
look with favor on the wondrous mystery of the whole Church
and serenely accomplish the work of human salvation,
which you planned from all eternity;
may the whole world know and see
that what was cast down is raised up,
what had become old is made new,
and all things are restored to integrity through Christ,
just as by him they came into being.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

From the Ritual

206. These Sacraments, namely Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist, are the final step by which the elect, proceeding with their sins forgiven, are incorporated into the People of God, received the adoption of the children of God, and are led by the Holy Spirit into the promised fullness of time, and indeed into a foretaste of the Kingdom of God through the Eucharistic Sacrifice and Banquet.

209. The celebration of Baptism, which is brought as it were to its high point in the washing with water with the invocation of the Most Holy Trinity, is prepared by the Blessing of Water and the Profession of Faith, which are intimately connected with the rite of water.

222. The celebrant turns toward the font and says the following Blessing with hands extended:

O God, who by invisible power
accomplish a wondrous effect
through sacramental signs
and who in many ways have prepared water, your creation,
to show forth the grace of Baptism;

O God, whose Spirit
in the first moments of the world's creation
hovered over the waters,
so that the very substance of water
would even then take to itself the power to sanctify;

O God, who by the outpouring of the flood
foreshadowed regeneration,
so that from the mystery of one and the same element of water
would come an end to vice and a beginning of virtue;

222. (continued)

O God, who caused the children of Abraham
to pass dry-shod through the Red Sea,
so that the chosen people,
set free from slavery to Pharaoh,
would prefigure the people of the baptized;

O God, whose Son,
baptized by John in the waters of the Jordan,
was anointed with the Holy Spirit,
and, as he hung upon the Cross,
gave forth water from his side along with blood,
and after his Resurrection, commanded his disciples:
"Go forth, teach all nations, baptizing them
in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,"
look now, we pray, upon the face of your Church
and graciously unseal for her the fountain of Baptism.

May this water receive by the Holy Spirit
the grace of your Only Begotten Son,
so that human nature, created in your image
and washed clean through the Sacrament of Baptism
from all the squalor of the life of old,
may be found worthy to rise to the life of newborn children
through water and the Holy Spirit.

Scripture & Sacred Art



Artwork: *The Baptism of Christ*, Antoine Coyvel.

Scripture Reference: Matthew 3:13-17

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan
to be baptized by him.

John tried to prevent him, saying,

"I need to be baptized by you,
and yet you are coming to me?"

Jesus said to him in reply,

"Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us
to fulfill all righteousness."

Then he allowed him.

After Jesus was baptized,
he came up from the water and behold,
the heavens were opened for him,
and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove
and coming upon him.

And a voice came from the heavens, saying,
"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well
pleased."

Scripture

Scripture Reference: Romans 6:3-4

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life.”

Reflection Questions

- As we reflect upon the nature of Baptism and even our own Baptism, where do we see the graces of this Sacrament active and fruitful in our lives? How can we help facilitate the proper understanding and fruits of Baptism for the elect?
- Confirmation is often a misunderstood Sacrament. Where do we see the action of the Holy Spirit in both the Old and New Testament, and what does that tell us about how Confirmation is intimately linked with Baptism? Why is it so crucial to not delay conferring Confirmation upon the elect after their Baptism?
- For us and the elect, the reception of the Holy Eucharist is meant to “confirm the gifts they have received and receive a foretaste of eternal gifts.” In what ways do we and the neophytes manifest our identity as priest, prophet, and king through our participation in the eucharistic sacrifice (the Mass)?

Citations

- Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (Totowa, New Jersey: Catholic Book Publishing Corporation, 2024), nos. 206, 209, 222.
- Coypel, Antione. The Baptism of Christ. 1690. Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, California, United States. Public domain.
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