

# Chapter 12: Baptism and Confirmation



## OPENING PRAYER

Almighty ever-living God, who, when Christ had been baptized in the River Jordan and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him, solemnly declared him your beloved Son, grant that your children by adoption, reborn of water and the Holy Spirit, may always be well pleasing to you. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## OPENING SCRIPTURE: ROMANS 6:3-11

<sup>3</sup> Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup> Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

<sup>5</sup> For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup> We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup> For whoever has died is freed from sin. <sup>8</sup> But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup> We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup> The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. <sup>11</sup> So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.



# CHAPTER 12: BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION

## Key points from video

- Baptism is the first of the sacraments; it is the sacrament of rebirth.
- Baptism is administered by pouring of or immersion in true water and the recitation of the Trinitarian formula: [Name], I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”
- Baptism cleanses the soul from original and actual sin and gives sanctifying grace.
- Confirmation is administered by the laying on of the hand and anointing with sacred chrism as the minister says: [Name], be sealed with the Holy Spirit.”
- Confirmation imparts to the soul a certain maturity and the grace to witness to the Faith.
- Both Baptism and Confirmation give “character” – a share in Christ’s priesthood.



## WISDOM OF THE SAINTS

[Baptism] is the carriage to God, the dying with Christ, the perfecting of the mind, the bulwark of Faith, the key of the Kingdom of heaven, the change of life, the removal of slavery, the loosing of chains, the remodeling of the whole man...the greatest and most magnificent of the Gifts of God.

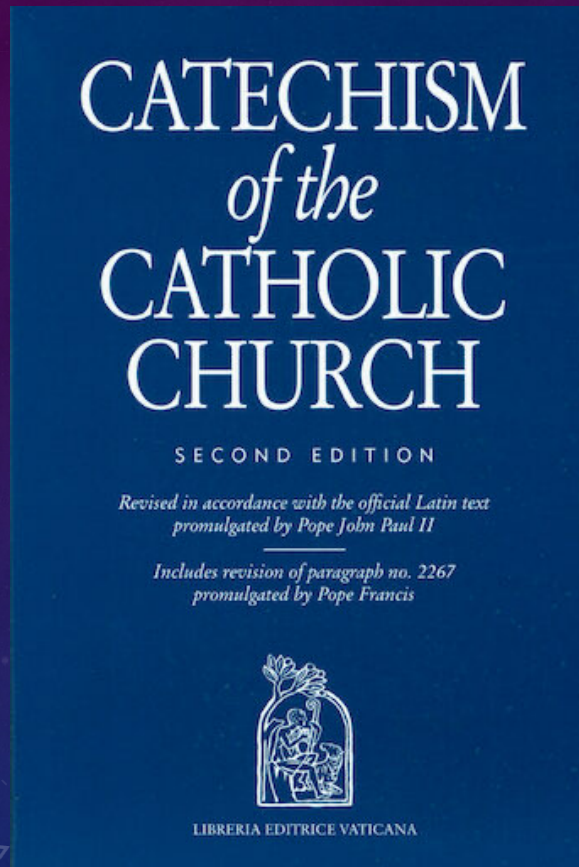
– St. Gregory of Nazianzus. 329 AD – 390AD



## CHAPTER 12: DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In what sense is Baptism the beginning of Christian life? See CCC 1213, 1266, and 1273.
2. If the priest pours oil over the head of an unbaptized person and says, “I baptize you in the name of Christ,” is this a valid baptism? See CC 1239 and Matthew 28:19.
3. Most associate Baptism exclusively with the forgiveness of original sin. What are some other effects of the sacrament of Baptism? See CCC 1262, 1241, 1265, and 1268.
4. What does Confirmation add to Baptism? See CCC 1285 and 1303.
5. What sacrament is more necessary, Baptism or Confirmation, and why? See John 3:5 and CCC 1257.

## FROM THE CATECHISM



Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit (*vitae spiritualis ianua*), and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission: "Baptism is the sacrament of regeneration through water in the word." – CCC 1213



## CHAPTER 12: LIFE APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. Why is it significant that the sacraments are associated with healing? From what do you need healing most? How do the sacraments address that need?
2. How intentionally do Christians live the grace of their baptism? What can you learn from their example? How do you hope to live your own?
3. What does it mean for you to give witness to the Faith? How do you hope for the grace of Confirmation to play out in your life?





## FROM POPE EUGENE IV 1383-1447 AD

The effect of this sacrament [confirmation] is that in it the Holy Spirit is given for strength, as he was given to the apostles on the day of Pentecost, in order that Christians may courageously confess the name of Christ. – *Exsultate Deo*

## CHAPTER 12: KEY TERMS

### Key Terms

- **Sacrament:** A sign that causes grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us.
- **Character:** An indelible spiritual mark which is the permanent effect of the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders, by which a person is given a new permanent configuration to Christ and a specific standing in the Church.; the reception of these sacraments is never repeated.
- **Grace:** The free and undeserved gift that God gives us to respond to our vocation to become his adopted children, by which we receive a share in the divine nature.
- **Spiritual adoption:** The transformation by which one becomes a child of God by the reception of grace, typically communicated in the sacrament of Baptism.



## CLOSING SCRIPTURE

### MARK 1:9-11

But when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, <sup>9</sup> In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; <sup>[h]</sup> with you I am well pleased.”



## CLOSING PRAYER

By this holy water and by Your Precious Blood, wash away all my sins, O Lord, Amen.

- A prayer recited while blessing oneself with Holy Water.