

SACRAMENTS - SESSION ELEVEN

Session 11 Our Youth will understand Baptism as the experience of the Life-giving Jesus and its commissioning them to ministry to continue God's presence in the world

Parents: Baptism is the first of three sacraments of initiation into the Church. The second is Confirmation . The Third is Holy Eucharist. Through Baptism, we become members of the Leaven, Light, and Salt Community, and are commissioned to bring Christ's presence, love and compassion to the world.

Baptism: The one baptizing pours water over the head of the child (adult) while saying the words "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. The minister of baptism is the priest or deacon. In danger of death, anyone can baptize another by reciting the words while intending to do what the church does, even if one is not a Catholic.

Sign: The sign of baptism originally was stepping into the pool that symbolizes death, and coming out of the water which symbolizes rising to a new life. With the sacraments, what is signified takes place. The child (adult) dies to self and rises to a new life in Christ. In the pouring of the water, the death to life passage takes place. Our lives change completely.

BAPTISM

1. Incorporates us into Christ. For a child, all sin is removed by with the advent of a new life in Christ. For the adult the presence of Jesus thru Baptism removes all sin.
2. Sacraments are part of God's plan to reach out to all people. We receive Jesus to share Christ with others. Thru us, Jesus is present to all people to the end of time.
3. To share Christ, we must know Him. And this is the task of a life-time. It is a one of learning and formation. It is a matter of the head and it is more importantly a matter of the heart. The object of Baptism is not knowledge but commitment .

SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

This tells us the process is life long.

1. Baptism makes us members of the community and empowers us to mature. Learning can take place in school. Formation, must take place in the home.
2. Confirmation marks a stage in initiation. It should reflect a person's taking of the commitment to community that is Baptism and making it a personal commitment.
3. Eucharist which is our "food for the journey" spells out the life-long need to grow in knowledge and love.

THE SYMBOLISM OF BAPTISM

1. An excellent teaching tool for parents is remembering the death to new life symbolism of Baptism. Teach the children that Wisdom of God and Wisdom of the World are opposed to one another. The different quality of our life which transcends time and stretches out to all eternity is the basis of Christian life – Being IN t n he World but not OF the world.
2. It would be important for you as parents to stress the difference between the two wisdoms: Wisdom of the World and Wisdom of God hold up opposite ideals and goals. Both "make sense." It is important to know from which wisdom we are operating.

VATICAN II

1. Formerly, ministry was visualized as something which priests and religious are involved in. The Council noted that the call to minister, stems not from Ordination or Religious Profession but in the sacrament of Baptism itself.
2. The Council also reminds us that the living of the Gospel more than speaking of it changes lives.
3. Where we spend our eternity depends on how we manage our lives on earth. How will you get this across to your children?
4. Let your philosophy of parenting forever be: Only God changes the minds and hearts of people. Attribute to God alone thanks for the progress of your children. When they seem not to be progressing, remember it may not yet be God's time. Take neither credit nor take blame. Then watch God work !!!