

SACRAMENTS - SESSION SIX

SACRAMENT - JESUS - CHURCH - WE - INDIVIDUALLY AND AS PART OF CHURCH

Session 6. Our youth will appreciate "sacrament" as sign of God's presence and action in our world - Jesus as Primary Sacrament, Church as continuation of Christ's Sacramental presence in the world, and each of us as part of Church.

Parents: The Sacraments are key to sharing our vision of Jesus, living His Mission continuing His presence till the end of time.
A Sacrament is a visible sign of the presence and action of God in our world.

Jesus - God - become one of us - is the most profound presence and action of God
Church - is God's way of continuing "becoming one of us" through the Yeast, Light, Salt Community
We - Church is people. Through seven special sacramental signs we experience, at key moments of our life various aspects of the presence of Christ and are thereby empowered to be His presence.

1. In Baptism, we experience the Life Giving Presence of Christ. We experience new life, making us children of God, forgiveness of sin, and are commissioned to be Christ for the world as part of the Community (Church bears His name).
2. In Confirmation, we experience the strengthening presence of Christ and are empowered to live our commitment to the new life that is ours when times make this charge difficult and challenging
3. In Holy Eucharist, we receive the presence of Christ and are empowered by the presence of Christ. We also consider Eucharist in terms of His Sacrifice and Presence.
4. In Reconciliation, we experience the forgiving Jesus and are empowered to forgive as Jesus did in our world.
5. In Anointing of the Sick, we experience the healing presence of Jesus and are empowered to heal others in Christ's name.
6. In Holy Orders, we experience the unconditional love of God for us through total gift of self to God and giving expression to this unconditional love through the Community (Church) by service.
7. In Matrimony, we experience the unconditional love of God for us through another person and are empowered to model God's love for all people in our marriage and relationships.

Receiving Christ sacramentally through the sacrament that is the Community, and in community experiencing Jesus in the seven special moments of our lives, we individually and as part of the community are empowered to BE CHRIST by the lives we lead.

With this background as a frame of reference, share with your children some of the people who at different points in your life made a real difference in the way you saw things, the things that were really important.

- One of the things Dad did that caused you to stop and take note
- One of the things Mom did that you'll never forget
- One of the things a teacher did for you that changed your way of looking at things.
- Something a brother or sister did for you that you can never thank them enough.
- Something a priest said one time that changed the way you looked at things.
- An experience you had that you know had the hand of God in it
- An experience that caught you up short and enriched you profoundly
- A time when you experienced God talking to you through another person

Parents: The more you can share your own personal faith life, what you felt about God at the ages of your children, the more they can sense how important God and the things of God are to you. You teach not with blackboards and lesson plans \ but with stories, and experiences, and especially modeling the world view Christ shared with us in your home.

