

Mysterious Encounters: Unveiling the Power of the Sacraments

Week 2: Baptism and Confirmation

Baptism

1. Images (“types”) of Baptism in the Old Testament
2. Elements of Baptism
 - a. Form: Matthew 28:19
 - b. Matter
 - i. Water (immersion, pouring, sprinkling)
 - ii. Anointing with oil, candle, white garment
 - c. Effects
 - i. Acts 2:38
 - ii. 1 Corinthians 12:13
 - d. Responsibilities: Offices of Christ
 - i. Priest
 - ii. Prophet
 - iii. King
3. Gifts of the Holy Spirit
 - a. Isaiah 11:1-3
 - b. **We Can Know PUFF: Wisdom, Counsel, Knowledge, Piety, Understanding, Fortitude, Fear of the Lord**

Confirmation

1. Elements of Confirmation

- a. Form: “Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.”
- b. Matter
 - i. Anointing the forehead with oil
 - ii. Laying on of hands
- c. Effects (See effects for baptism above and CCC 1302-1305)
- d. Responsibilities (See responsibilities for baptism)

Mystagogical Reflection

Saint Ambrose of Milan, *On the Mysteries* 6:31-33

31. You went up from the font; remember the Gospel lesson. For our Lord Jesus Christ in the Gospel washed the feet of His disciples. When He came to Simon Peter, Peter said: “*You shall never wash my feet.*” (John 13:8) He did not perceive the mystery, and therefore he refused the service, for he thought that the humility of the servant would be injured, if he patiently allowed the Lord to minister to him. And the Lord answered him: “*If I wash not your feet, you will have no part with Me.*” Peter, hearing this, replies: “*Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head.*” The Lord answered: “*He that is washed needs not save to wash his feet but is clean every whit.*” (John 13:9-10)

32. Peter was clean, but he must wash his feet, for he had sin by succession from the first man, when the serpent overthrew him and persuaded him to sin. His feet were therefore washed, that hereditary sins might be done away, for our own sins are remitted through baptism.

33. Observe at the same time that the mystery consists in the very office of humility, for Christ says: “*If I, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; how much more ought you to wash one another’s feet.*” For, since the Author of Salvation Himself redeemed us through His obedience, how much more ought we His servants to offer the service of our humility and obedience.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come Holy Spirit,
Fill the hearts of us Your faithful
And kindle in us the fire of Your love.
Send forth Your Spirit
And we shall be created.
And You shall renew the face of the earth.

O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit,
Instructs the hearts of the faithful,
Grant, that by the same Holy Spirit,
We may be truly wise
And ever rejoice in His consolations,
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.