



# RCIA

Rite of Catholic Initiation of Adults  
Introduction to the Sacraments  
Sacraments – Matrimony



Opening Prayer



## Sacraments

- What are Sacraments?
  - Comes from Latin 'sacramentum' meaning 'oath': God's oath to us as promised by Jesus, "I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20)
  - Channels through which the grace of God flows to us
- Instituted by Christ himself during his earthly life.



## Sacraments

- Jesus no longer walks on earth
  - We cannot come into contact with his *historic* body
  - Sacraments are tangible encounters with Jesus' *mystic* body
- God reaches out to us in the Sacraments.
- An experience of the *Sacred* and the *Divine* - God connecting with the human soul.



## Sacraments

- Sacraments are an example of the God exercising the Incarnational Principle.
  - God conveying His Truth and Grace through our senses
- E.g. The Apostles' curing of the sick
  - The grace and power comes from God
  - The Apostles only act as human channels
- The term "sacraments" were used loosely in early church.
- In 13th Century, the Church came to recognise 7 Sacraments.
- Council of Trent (1545-1563) affirms the 7 Sacraments



## 7 Sacraments

- 3 Sacraments of Initiation
  - Baptism
  - Confirmation
  - Eucharist
- 2 Sacraments of Healing
  - Anointing of the Sick
  - Reconciliation
- 2 Sacraments of Vocation
  - Matrimony
  - Holy Order



## Sacraments

- Sacraments are gifts from God
- Through them, the Lord offers us a share of his own life and power.
- An outward sign conferring inner grace.
- Sacraments made God “real” to us
  - Jesus is the first sacrament of God
  - The Church is a sacrament of God



## Elements Of A Sacrament

- Sign
  - Conveys the grace upon us
- Matter & Form
  - Matter – Things used
  - Form – Words used
- Person
  - Authorised Minister(s)



## Recap

- Sacraments
  - Encounters with God
  - 7 Sacraments
    - Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist
    - Healing: Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick
    - Vocation: Matrimony, Holy Orders



Who Wants To Be  
The Kingdom's Heir?



### 1. What does the word "Sacrament" mean?

- a. New Beginning
- b. Special Experience
- c. Sacred Sign or Symbol
- d. Liturgical Celebration



### 2. What do the Seven Sacraments do?

- a. Fulfill the requirements for being Catholic
- b. Effect, or bring about, what they symbolised
- c. Make us sure that we will go the Heaven
- d. Add some variety to our spiritual activities



3. Jesus introduced one Sacrament to make us part the Church.

- a. Confirmation
- b. Eucharist
- c. Baptism
- d. Reconciliation



4. The Sacraments come to us from:

- a. Jesus
- b. The Apostles
- c. Church of 13th century
- d. Council of Trent



5. Sacraments are described as:

- a. Sacred Things
- b. Secular Rites
- c. Meetings with Christ
- d. Memorials of Christ



6. What Sacrament is signified as the symbol of Christ's relationship with the Church?

- a. Baptism
- b. Eucharist
- c. Holy Orders
- d. Matrimony



## Marriage

- Instituted By God
- Genesis 1:27-28
- Genesis 2:21-24

### Genesis 1:27-28 (Instituted By God)

27 So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. 28 God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.'

### Genesis 2:21-24 (Instituted By God)

21 So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 22 And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. 23 Then the man said, 'This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken.' 24 Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.




## Marriage

- Christian marriage is a marriage with a third-party
  - Christ
  - The Holy Spirit unites the husband and wife into one flesh with Christ
- An outward sign of Christ's love for his Church.
  - "The wife of the Lamb" (Revelation 21:9)



## Marriage

- Ephesians 5:21-32 (Love each other as Christ loves His Church) 
- 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (Love)

Ephesians 5:21-32 (Love each other as Christ loves His Church)  
 21 Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ. 22 Wives, be subject to your husbands as you are to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife just as Christ is the head of the church, the body of which he is the Saviour. 24 Just as the church is subject to Christ, so also wives ought to be, in everything, to their husbands. 25 Husbands, **love your wives, just as Christ loved the church** and gave himself up for her, 26 in order to make her holy by cleansing her with the washing of water by the word, 27 so as to present the church to himself in splendour, without a spot or wrinkle or anything of the kind—yes, so that she may be holy and without blemish. 28 In the same way, husbands should love their wives as they do their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hates his own body, but he nourishes and tenderly cares for it, just as Christ does for the church, 30 because we are members of his body. 31 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.'  
 32 This is a great mystery, and **I am applying it to Christ and the church.**

**1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (Love)**  
**4 Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant 5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6 it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. 7 It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never ends.**



## Purpose Of Marriage

- Unitive: Love giving and forgiving.
- Procreative: Life giving and life nourishing



## Indissoluble

- "Till death do us part"
- Some Pharisees came to him, and to test him they asked, 'Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any cause?' He answered, 'Have you not read that the one who made them at the beginning "made them male and female", and said, "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh"? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.'  
 (Matthew 19:3-6)



## Indissoluble

- 'Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.' (Mark 10:11-12)
- Whoever dissolves a sacramental marriage in a civil divorce and remarries must not partake in the Sacrament of the Eucharist



## What About Annulment?

- Annulment is not a "Catholic divorce".
  - Annulment = No valid marriage ever existed
- Marriage declared null and void by a Ecclesiastical Tribunal
- The tribunal judges whether or not the sacrament of marriage was entered into invalidly. That is, a true union never took place.
- What about the children?
  - Canon 1137 affirms the legitimacy of children born in both valid and *putative* marriages (objectively invalid, though at least one party celebrated in good faith).
- All marriages remain valid unless or until it is successfully challenged.



## Some Grounds For Annulment

- Consanguinity, e.g. siblings
- Failure to adhere to requirements of canon law for marriages e.g. Clandestinity (absence of witnesses to the marriage vows)
- Lacking the requisite freedom to marry (e.g. abducted victim)
- Feigning consent in a ceremony
- No intention to have children
- Hiding a serious defects in oneself to gain a partner's consent



## Interfaith Marriage

Difference of confession between the spouses does not constitute an insurmountable obstacle for marriage, when they succeed in placing in common what they have received from their respective communities, and learn from each other the way in which each lives in fidelity to Christ. But the difficulties of mixed marriages must not be underestimated. They arise from the fact that the separation of Christians has not yet been overcome. The spouses risk experiencing the tragedy of Christian disunity even in the heart of their own home. Disparity of cult can further aggravate these difficulties. Differences about faith and the very notion of marriage, but also different religious mentalities, can become sources of tension in marriage, especially as regards the education of children. The temptation to religious indifference can then arise. (CCC 1634)



## Interfaith Marriage

- The Catholic partner must -
  - Affirm his/her commitment to the Catholic faith
  - Commit to raising their children in the Catholic faith
- May be performed in a place of worship of the other faith, presided by a minister of the other faith (with the Church's approval)



## Marriage Of The Unbaptised

- A marriage between a non-baptised couple is called a Natural Bond.
- On the baptism of *both* parties, the marriage become sacramental.
- What if only one party get baptised?
  - Can be dissolved under certain circumstances
  - Pauline Privilege

1 Corinthians 7:6,12-15 (Pauline Privilege)

6 This I say by way of concession, not of command. 12 To the rest I say—I and not the Lord—that if any believer has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, **he should not divorce her**. 13 And if any woman has a husband who is an unbeliever, and he consents to live with her, **she should not divorce him**. 14 For the unbelieving husband is made holy through his wife, and the unbelieving wife is made holy through her husband. Otherwise, your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy. 15 But if the unbelieving partner separates, let it be so; in such a case the brother or sister is not bound. It is to peace that God has called you.



### Pauline Privilege - Criteria

- Both persons were not baptised at the time of marriage.
  - Marriage originally non-sacramental
- One party has been baptised, but the other remains unbaptised.
  - Marriage remains non-sacramental
- The unbaptised person departs physically by divorce or desertion, or morally by making married life unbearable for the baptised person.
  - Just cause for the dissolution



### Pauline Privilege - Criteria

- The unbaptised person refuses to be baptised or to live peacefully with the baptised person.
  - Unbaptised person is given the opportunity
- Civil divorce has been granted by the state.
  - Church is not responsible for the separation.



### Petrine Privilege

- Extension of Pauline Privilege's logic to marriage between a baptised and non-baptised person.
- The non-baptised party remained non-baptised; or if upon baptised, the marriage is not consummated due to separation.
- Only the Pope may grant this privilege.




### Petrine Privilege

- May be dissolved "in favour of the faith"
- If
  - One party is a baptised Catholic, and he/she intends to marry a Christian.
  - One party is a baptised Christian of another Christian faith or unbaptised, and he/she intends to be received into the Church and marry a baptised practising Catholic.




### Pauline / Petrine Privilege

- Marriage is indissoluble.
- The Church provides these as *privileges*.
- In order to grant these privileges, the Church delves intimate personal details; and had to make a judgement.
- The privileges is a sign of the Church's great compassion.




## Elements Of The Sacrament

- Sign:
  - The consent of the man and the woman, expressed externally by words and signs
- Matter & Form:
  - The Marriage Vow
  - The Ring
- Person:
  - The man and woman conferring the sacrament upon each other as witnessed by the Church




## Marriage After Death

- Does marriage still exist after one or both parties die?
- Luke 20:27-36 

(See also Matthew 22:23-30 and Mark 12:18-25)


Luke 20:27-36 (Is There Marriage After Death?)  
 (also Matthew 22:23-30 and Mark 12:18-25)

27 Some Sadducees, those who say there is no resurrection, came to him 28 and asked him a question, 'Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies, leaving a wife but no children, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother. 29 Now there were seven brothers; the first married, and died childless; 30 then the second 31 and the third married her, and so in the same way all seven died childless. 32 Finally the woman also died. 33 In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had married her.' 34 Jesus said to them, 'Those who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage; 35 but **those who are considered worthy of a place in that age and in the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage.** 36 Indeed they cannot die any more, because they are like angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection.





## There Is No Marriage After Death?

- Why?
  - One of the key purposes of marriage is procreation: "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it" (Genesis 1:28)
  - No such need in heaven: "for they cannot die any more, because they are equal to angels" (Luke 20:36)
- This does not mean there is no more love.
  - God is love.
  - The love of Agape continues through eternity.



## Tea Break

## Discussion

- What are the sacrifices demanded in marriage?
- What are the "ingredients" to a happy marriage?



### “Ingredients” To A Happy Marriage

- Love
- Commitment
- Communication
- Trust
- Prayer
- Forgiveness
- Respect
- Thoughtfulness
- Never taking your spouse for granted



### “Rules” To A Happy Marriage

- Never both be angry at the same time
- If one of you has to win the argument, let it be your spouse.
- If you have to criticise, do it lovingly.
- Never bring up mistakes of the past.
- Neglect the whole world rather than each other.
- Never go to sleep with an argument unsettled.
- At least once every day, say one kind or complimentary thing to your life’s partner
- When you have done something wrong, be ready to admit it and ask for forgiveness.
- Never yell at each other unless the house is on fire !



### Recap

- Marriage is instituted by God
- Purposes of Marriage
  - Unitive
  - Procreative
- Indissoluble
  - Only dissolved at death



### Q&A



### Further Readings

- *At Home With God’s People*  
(ISBN 0-947282-13-0)  
Chapter 10, 18
- *Path Through Catholicism*  
(ISBN 0-7829-0971-X)  
Chapter 14
- *Catholic and Christian*  
(ISBN 0-89283-181-2)  
Chapter 7
- *The Privilege of Being Catholic*  
(ISBN 978-0-89243-563-0)  
Chapter 6, 10



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## CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT

(Farrell B)

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
Light for the world to see.

Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness.  
Christ be our light! Shine in your church  
gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.  
Make us your living voice.

Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness.  
Christ be our light! Shine in your church  
gathered today.

Longing for food, many are hungry.  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others,  
Shared until all are fed.

Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness.  
Christ be our light! Shine in your church  
gathered today.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.  
Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering others,  
walls made of living stone.

Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness.  
Christ be our light! Shine in your church  
gathered today.

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