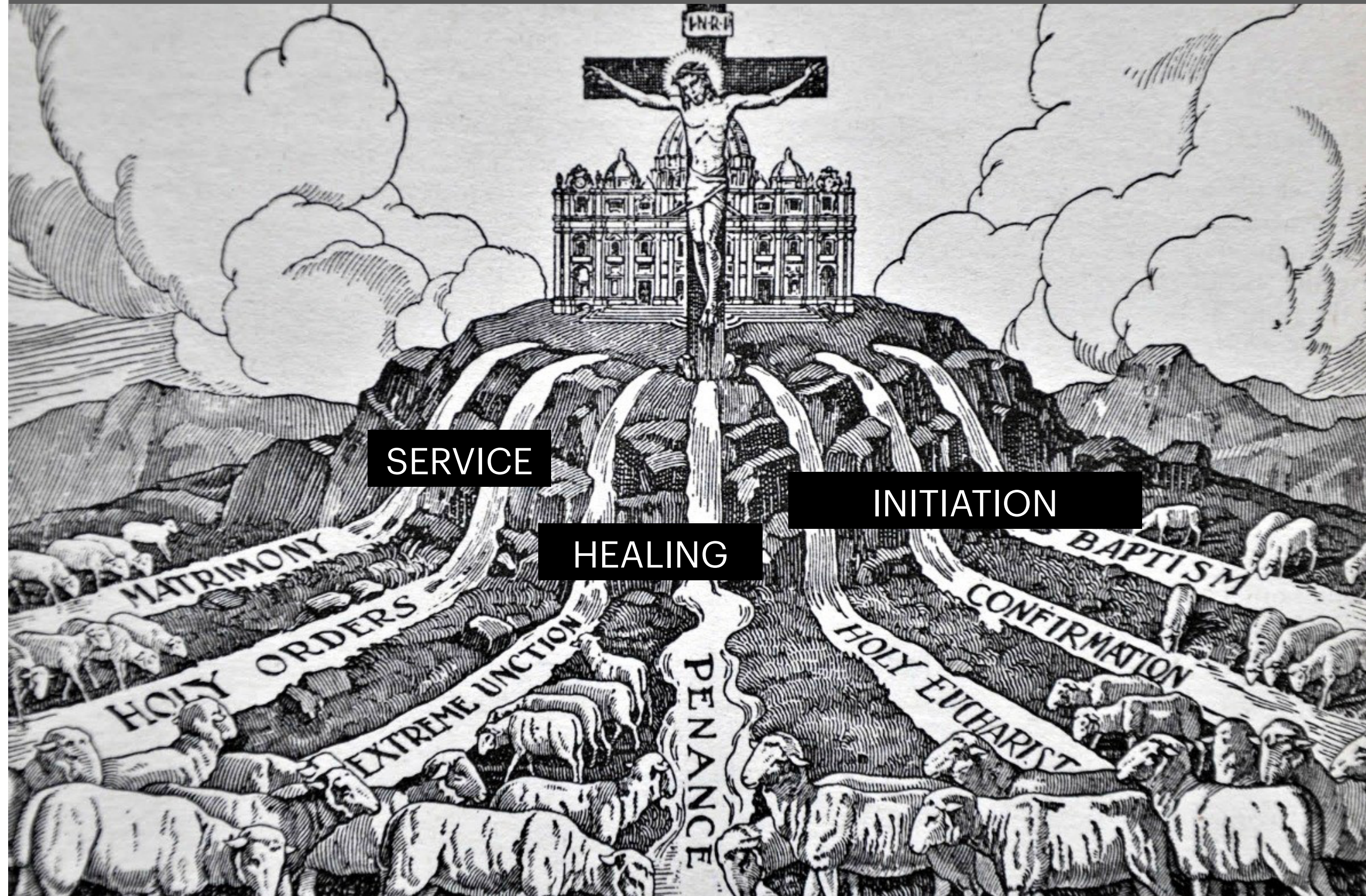


THE SACRAMENTS



SERVICE

INITIATION

HEALING

Note: Extreme means last, and Unction means an anointing or rubbing with oil, and because Catholics are anointed

John Sommer November 2023

1131 The sacraments are *efficacious* signs of *grace*, *instituted* by Christ and *entrusted* to the Church, by which *divine life* is dispensed to us.

2017 The grace of the Holy Spirit confers upon us the *righteousness of God*. *Uniting us by faith and Baptism to the Passion and Resurrection of Christ*, the Spirit makes us *sharers in his life*.

There is an old saying,

Justice is when you get what you deserve.

Mercy is when you don't get what you deserve.

Grace is when you get what you don't deserve."

Like you, I am asked many times a day, "*How are you doing?*"

I've trained myself to respond,

"More blessed than I deserve." Msgr. Pope

Short History of name Sacramentum

Latin -> *Sacramentum*; Greek -> *mysterion* (mystery or secret)

- In times of the early church (such as writings of Tertullian) the word also meant -> *oath*
- In 3rd and 4th century (St. Cyprian, St. Hilary, St. Ambrose) its meaning took on more than oath and *focused on the rite* as in *producing grace* and bringing *Christ's mysteries to mind*.
- St. Leo the Great: coined a phrase *“That which was visible in our Redeemer has passed over into the mysteries”* -> includes the whole mystery of Christ, either as past event or present in a rite, to be believed which *produces spiritual effects*.
The *Redeemer remains visibly among us in the rites of the Church*, St. Leo also included feast days.

Next A Mystery Analogy

St. Augustine Doctor of Grace

1. St Augustine, 5th century, described a sacrament as: ‘an **outward & visible sign** of an **inward & invisible grace**.’
2. Grace for Augustine is: freedom of God to act without any external necessity - *love beyond human understanding or control*. The *love and favor of God* towards human beings that we have *not merited, yet made available* to us.
3. In the “Confessions,” Augustine presents himself to the reader as the *object of God’s grace*. Is the place where God’s grace operates. God’s grace in Augustine’s life is not limited to information and help, rather it is a *deep and direct influence of God on the most internal part of one’s soul*.
4. His arguments against Pelagianism helped Augustine refine the doctrine of original sin and the doctrine of the *necessity of God’s grace for man’s salvation*. He clearly *proved from passages in Holy Scriptures* that all men were sinners and could *gain no merit on their own but only through Christ*. *God never forces himself on someone against their will*.

Some Interesting Questions

1. Sacraments are "powers that comes forth" from _____? (1116)
2. Most protestants believe there are 2 sacraments, which ones?
3. Why are there 7 sacraments (not 5, 9, etc.)? (St. Aquinas & Bishop Sheen)
4. Do we need Grace? Can we resist the grace of God?
5. Which sacraments can only be received once? Why?
6. Is it possible for a person to receive all 7 sacraments?
7. Sign on roadways, "Jesus Saves." True, but how does He save?
8. What 4 things are required to constitute a valid sacrament?
9. Where can we find who decides what constitutes a valid sacrament?

Some Interesting Questions cont'd

10. By the aid of our own powers alone can we do anything helpful to life everlasting? 1989
11. What is and How do you receive sanctifying grace?
12. What is sacramental grace? More than 1 type?
13. What does in persona Christi mean; relationship to sacraments?
14. What do ex opere operato ; ex opere operantis mean?
15. Which sacrament was called Extreme Unction?
16. Which sacrament is NOT conferred by deacon, priest or bishop?
17. Who was the *Defender of the Faith* vs Luther during reformation?
18. Which sacrament is considered most important and why?

Details for some of the Questions

Denomination	Baptism	Confirmation	Holy Communion	Penance	Marriage	Holy Orders	Anointing of the Sick
Catholic	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes
Eastern Orthodox	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes
Oriental Orthodox	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes
Church of the East	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✗ No	✓ Yes	✗ No
Hussite	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes
Moravian	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✗ No	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✗ No
Lutheran	✓ Yes	✗ No	✓ Yes	Maybe	✗ No	✗ No	✗ No
Anglo-Catholicism ^[17]	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes
Anglican (broad church)	✓ Yes	Maybe ^[note 1]	✓ Yes	Maybe	Maybe	Maybe	Maybe
Evangelical Anglicanism	✓ Yes	✗ No	✓ Yes	✗ No	✗ No	✗ No	✗ No
Methodism	✓ Yes	✗ No	✓ Yes	✗ No	✗ No	✗ No	✗ No
Reformed	✓ Yes	✗ No	✓ Yes	✗ No	✗ No	✗ No	✗ No
Irvingism	✓ Yes	✗ No	✓ Yes	✗ No	✗ No	✗ No	✗ No
Latter-Day Saints	✓ Yes (non-trinitarian)	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes

SACRAMENTS by RELIGION

The 7 conditions of leading a personal Christ-life

Archbishop Sheen: Book of Sacraments

1. We must be spiritually born to it, and that is the **Sacrament of Baptism**;
2. We must nourish the divine life in the soul, which is the **Eucharist**;
3. We must grow to spiritual maturity and assume full responsibilities as members of the spiritual army of the Church, which is **Confirmation**;
4. We must heal the wounds of sin, which is **Penance**;
5. We must drive out the traces of the diseases of sin, which is the **Anointing of the Sick**;
6. We must live under the spiritual government of the Church, which is **Holy Orders**;
7. We must prolong and propagate the Kingdom of God on earth, which is **Matrimony**.

Also see St. Thomas: Aquinas Summa Theologiae Ques. 65, art1, 3 pars

TIMELINE: Top 6 events of the 7 sacraments

Jesus Christ 30-33 A.D.

1. Christ instituted the Church with its sacramental nature firmly founded on Scripture and tradition.

Early Church 90-350

2. The early Christians loosely applied the term “sacrament” to a variety of experiences, ritual actions and objects – the washing of feet, the sign of the cross, etc.

St. Augustine 354-430

3. Augustine spoke broadly of the sacraments – their effects, their administration and their fruitfulness.

2nd Council of Lyons 1274

4. In the 13th century, the Second Council of Lyons (1274), based on the writings of Peter Lombard in his Book of Sentences, defined the seven sacraments we have today.

Council of Florence 1439

5. The Council of Florence (1439) said the sacraments “contained and conferred grace.”

Council of Trent 1545-1563

6. The Council of Trent (1545-1563) stated that there were “no more nor less than seven” and defined them more clearly.

<https://faithmag.com/encountering-jesus-sacraments>

Sacrament Definitions from Archbishop Sheen

- When the Lord Incarnate walked this earth, there is only one thing that He took seriously, and that was the soul. He said: *"What exchange shall a man give for his soul?"*
- A sacrament, in a broad sense of the term, combines 2 elements: *one visible, the other invisible* one that can be seen, or tasted, or touched, or heard; the other unseen to the eyes of the flesh.
- The word "sacrament" in Greek means "mystery" and Christ was called by St. Paul "the mystery hidden from the ages." In Him is something *divine*, something *human*, something *eternal*, something *temporal*; something *invisible*, something *visible*.
- The sacraments derive their power and efficacy (the ability to produce a desired or intended result) from the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of our Lord.
"I have come so that they may have life, and have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).
- When He gives us grace, *He gives us Himself*. When He created us, He gave Himself to us in a way which *makes us one with Him*.

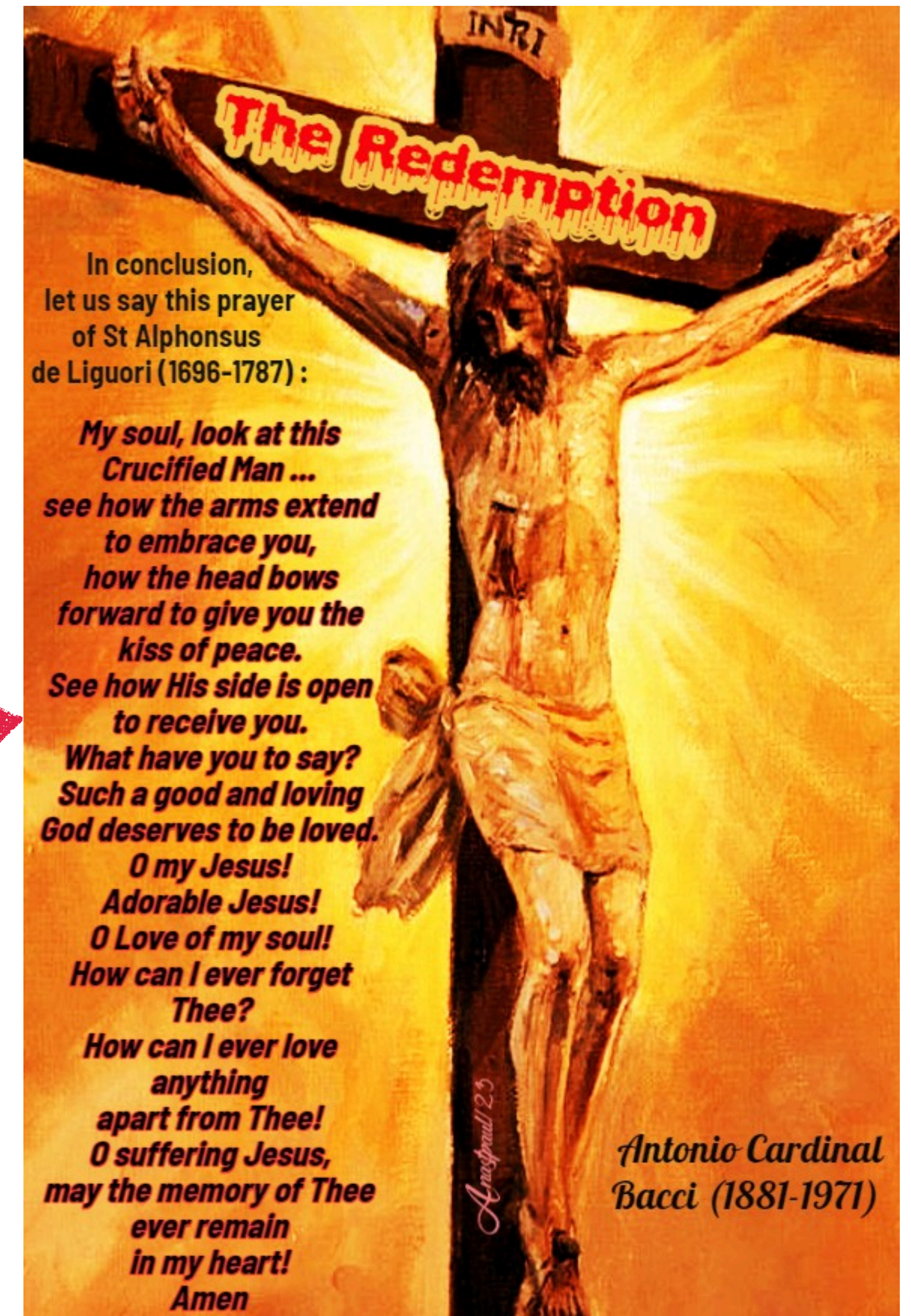
The Story Behind The Sign - Jesus Saves

If you have ever been to NYC or LA (1st installed in 1935), you've likely seen the historic landmark signs 'JESUS SAVES' sign. Serve as a powerful reminder of each city's rich religious history and also of who Jesus was, is, and always will be. Our Savior.

The sacraments derive their power and efficacy (the ability to produce a desired or intended result) from the **Passion, Death, and Resurrection** of our Lord.

"I have come so that they may have life, and have it more abundantly" (John 10:10)

Corpus



Pope Pius X Catechism on Grace

11 Q. How is grace distinguished?

A. Grace is divided into sanctifying grace, which is also called habitual grace, and actual grace.

12 Q. What is sanctifying grace?

A. Sanctifying grace is a supernatural gift inherent in our soul, and rendering us just, adopted children of God and heirs to Paradise.

16 Q. What is actual grace?

A. Actual grace is a supernatural gift which enlightens the mind, moves and strengthens the will in order to enable us to do good and avoid evil.

17 Q. Can we resist the grace of God?

A. Yes, we can resist the grace of God because it does not destroy our free will.

18 Q. By the aid of our own powers alone can we do anything available to life eternal?

A. Without the help of the grace of God, and by our own powers alone, we cannot do anything helpful to life everlasting.

19 Q. How is grace given us by God?

A. Grace is given us by God chiefly through the sacraments.

20 Q. Do the sacraments confer any other grace besides sanctifying grace?

A. Besides sanctifying grace the sacraments also confer sacramental grace.

21 Q. What is sacramental grace?

A. Sacramental grace consists in the right acquired in the reception of a sacrament, to have at the proper time the actual graces necessary to fulfil the obligations arising from the sacrament received. Thus when we were baptised we received the right to have the grace to live a Christian life.

Characteristics of Sanctifying Grace

1. **Favor**

Grace is unmerited favor given to us freely by God (through baptism).

2. **Divine Life**

Sanctifying grace enables us to participate in the Divine life of God through holy communion with Him as adopted sons and daughters of God.

3. **Supernatural**

Grace is a supernatural gift that only God can graciously give us through His love for us. Like the vocation to eternal life with God, it is beyond human understanding. We are called to have faith in Christ, to love Him, and to be with Him always.

4. **Infused** The grace of Christ is infused into our souls by the work of the Holy Spirit. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit heals the human soul from sin and sanctifies it.

5. **Perfects** Sanctifying grace helps the soul to live with God, keep His commandments, and love others the way God loves us freely and unconditionally.

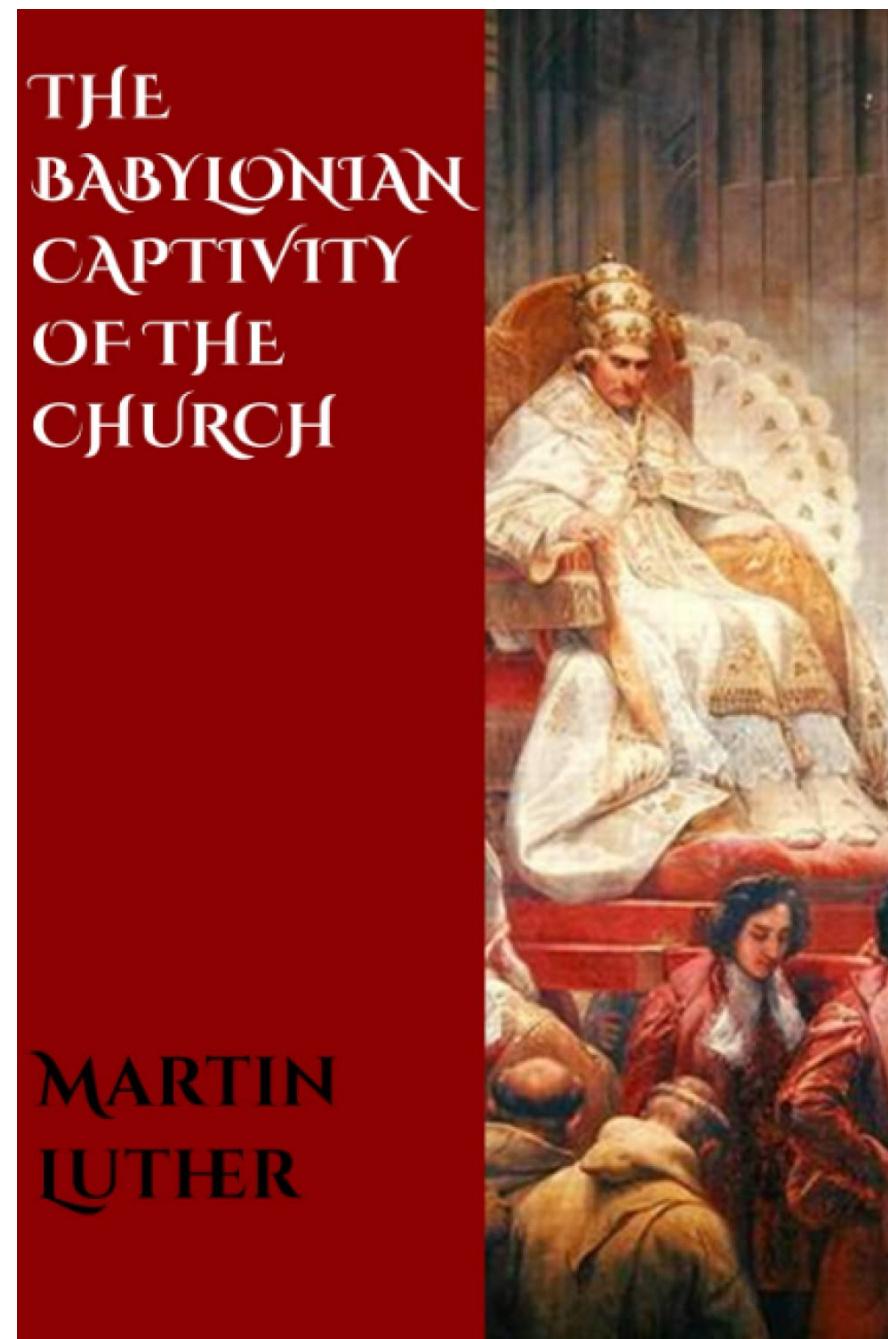
Be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect. Mt 5:48

Overview of Sanctifying Grace and Actual Grace

There are two primary kinds of grace: *sanctifying grace* and *actual grace*. Both graces are supernatural gifts given to us by God, and they are both needed for our salvation. “Sanctifying grace is like a new garment, so it is represented by the wedding garment and the Parable of the Wedding Feast.” Source: The Catechism Explained, Fr. Francis Spirago

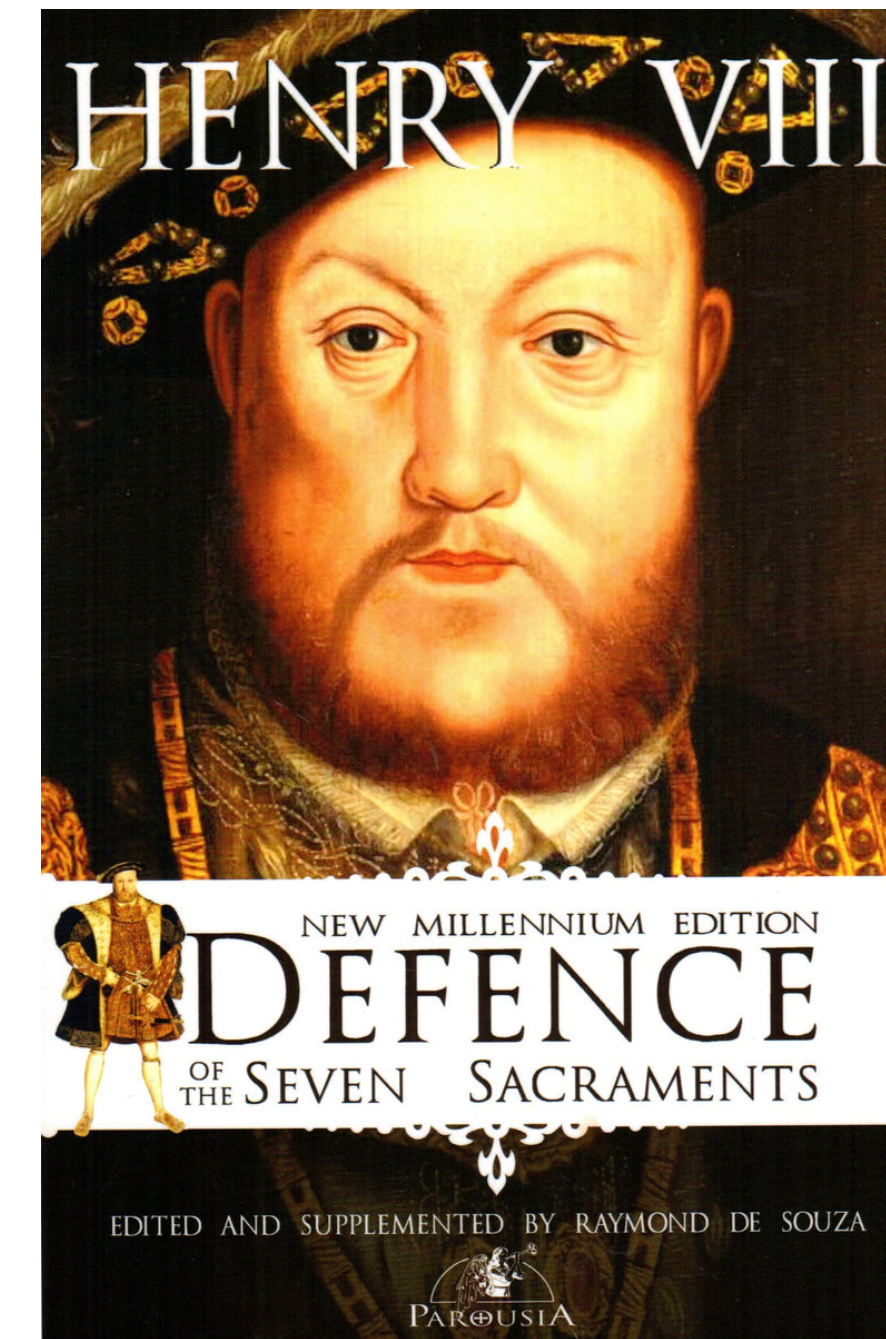
- Effects of *sanctifying grace***
1. It makes the soul holy and pleasing to God.
 2. It makes us adopted children of God.
 3. It makes us temples of the Holy Spirit.
 4. It gives us the right to heaven.

Description	Sanctifying Grace	Actual Grace
Baptism	provides	increases
Confession	restores	increases
Confirmation	increases	increases
Eucharist	increases	increases
Anointing of sick	increases	increases
Matrimony	increases	increases
Holy Orders	increases	increases
Duration	permanent	temporary
Venial sins	decreases	decreases
Mortal sin	takes away	decreases
Good deeds	increases	involved
Prayer	increases	increases
Temptations	caution	protection

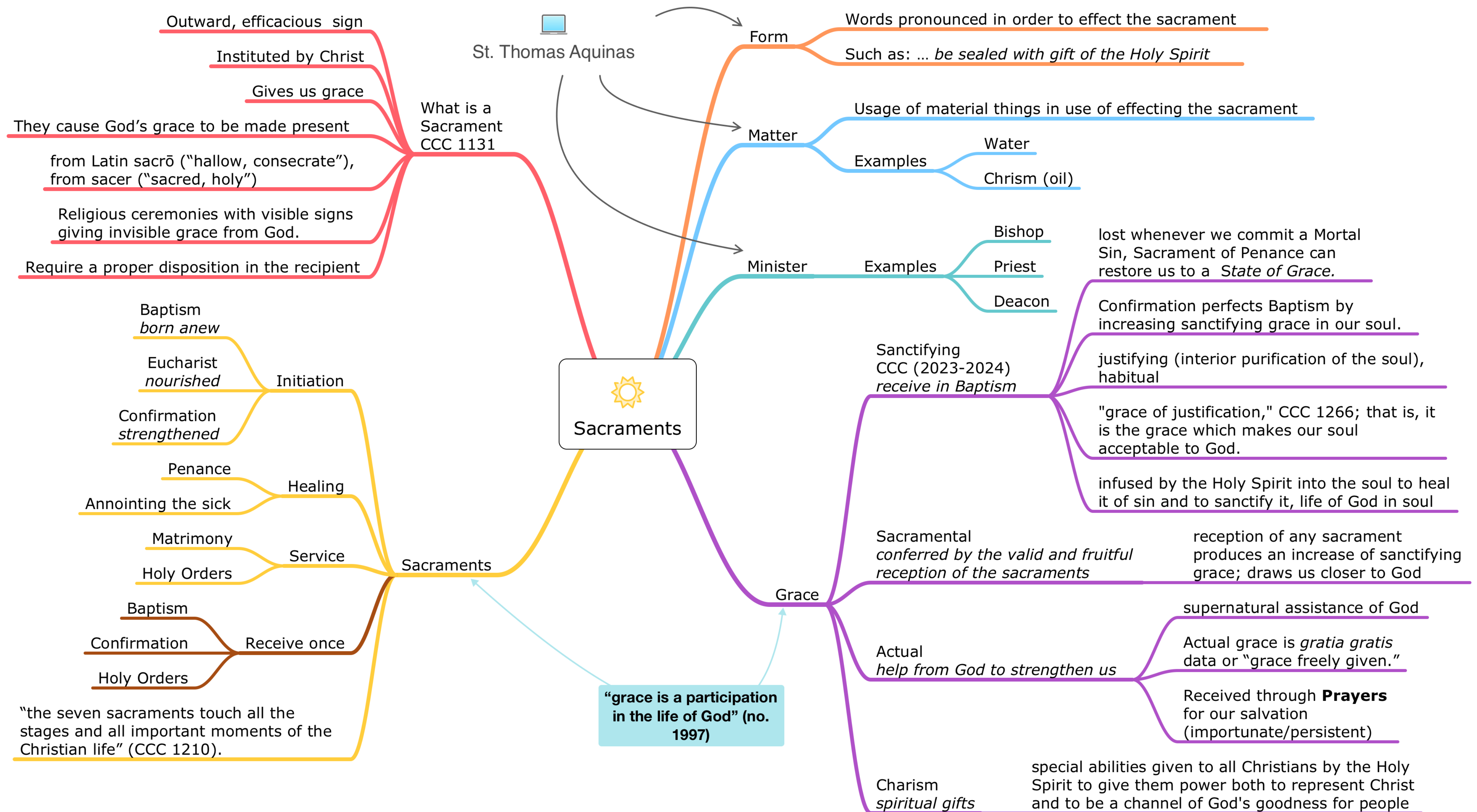


It was a theological treatise, in Latin as well as German. Luther examines the 7 sacraments of the Catholic Church in the light of his interpretation of the Bible.

With regard to the Eucharist, he advocates restoring the cup to the laity, dismisses the Catholic doctrine of Transubstantiation but affirms the real presence of the body and blood of Christ in the Eucharist, and rejects the teaching that the Mass is a sacrifice offered to God.



Before his schism from Rome and Reign of Terror, Henry VIII was an accomplished theologian and staunch defender of the Catholic Faith. As king of England, he authored 'Defence of the Seven Sacraments', a book deliberately aimed against Martin Luther and his errors. He defended papal primacy. He fought for all seven sacraments. **This masterpiece of Catholic Apologetics earned him the title of 'Defender of the Faith' from Leo X.**



Additional Reference Information

Sacrament Definitions CCC

- 1131 The sacraments are efficacious signs of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us.
- 1989 The first work of the *grace of the Holy Spirit* is conversion, *effecting justification* in accordance with Jesus' proclamation at the beginning of the Gospel: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Moved by grace, man turns toward God and away from sin, thus accepting forgiveness and righteousness from on high. "Justification is not only the remission of sins, but also the sanctification and renewal of the interior man.
- 1999 The *grace of Christ* is the gratuitous gift that God makes to us of his own life, infused by the Holy Spirit into our soul to heal it of sin and to sanctify it. It is the sanctifying or deifying grace received in Baptism. It is in us the source of the work of sanctification
- 2000 *Sanctifying grace* is an habitual gift, a stable and supernatural disposition that perfects the soul itself to enable it to live with God, to act by his love. *Habitual grace*, the permanent disposition to live and act in keeping with God's call, is distinguished from *Actual graces* which refer to God's interventions, whether at the beginning of conversion or in the course of the work of sanctification. More on Actual Grace and Sanctifying/Habitual Grace

Sacrament Definitions CCC

- 2003 ... Grace also includes the gifts that the Spirit grants us to associate us with his work, to enable us to collaborate in the salvation of others and in the growth of the Body of Christ, the Church. There are sacramental graces, gifts proper to the different sacraments. There are furthermore special graces, also called charisms after the Greek term used by St. Paul and meaning "favor," "gratuitous gift," "benefit."
- 2021 *Grace is the help God gives us* to respond to our vocation of becoming his adopted sons. It introduces us into the intimacy of the Trinitarian life.
- The *visible rites* by which the sacraments are celebrated signify and make present the graces proper to each sacrament. They *bear fruit in those who receive them* with the required dispositions.
- 2017 The grace of the Holy Spirit confers upon us the *righteousness of God*. Uniting us by faith and *Baptism to the Passion and Resurrection of Christ*, the Spirit makes us *sharers in his life*.
- 2018 Moved by grace, *man turns toward God* and away from sin, and so accepts forgiveness and righteousness from on high. [*Free will to accept*]

Link to Church Documents on Sacraments

a. Sacraments in Code of Canon Law

- Very good site Q&A on Canon Law - Canon Law Made Easy Example Catholics in non-sacramental marriages

b. Sacraments in the Catechism

- Flip book form
- Welcome Home - Sacraments

c. Sacraments in Bible

d. The Seven Sacraments:

- Council of Trent on Sacraments - response to reformation
- Catholic Doctrinal Documents
- Instruction Concerning Worship Of The Eucharistic Mystery
- Documents on sacramental questions