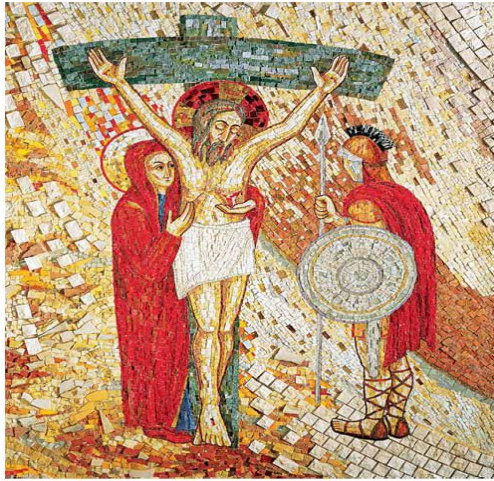


DIPPING INTO THE CATECHISM

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From the Compendium of the Catechism: paragraphs: 219 – 227



In this image, Mary, who is a figure for the Church, gathers in her left hand the blood and water which flow from the open side of Christ and which are symbols of the Church's sacraments.

What place does the liturgy occupy in the life of the church ?

The liturgy as the sacred action par excellence is the summit towards which the activity of the Church is directed and it is likewise the font from which all her power flows. Through the liturgy Christ continues the work of our redemption in, with and through his Church.

In what does the Sacramental Economy consist ?

The sacramental economy consists in the communication of the fruits of Christ's redemption through the celebration of the sacraments of the Church, most especially that of the Eucharist, "until he comes" (1 Corinthians 11:26).

THE LITURGY – WORK OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

In what way is the Father the source and the goal of the liturgy?

Through the liturgy the Father fills us with his blessings in the Word made flesh who died and rose for us and pours into our hearts the Holy Spirit. At the same time, the Church blesses the Father by her worship, praise and thanksgiving and begs Him for the gift of His Son and the Holy Spirit.

What is the work of Christ in the liturgy ?

In the liturgy of the Church, it is his own paschal mystery that Christ signifies and makes present. By giving the Holy Spirit to His apostles, He entrusted to them and their successors the power to make present the work of salvation through the Eucharistic sacrifice and the sacraments, in which He Himself acts to communicate His grace to the faithful of all times and places throughout the world.

How does the Holy Spirit work in the liturgy of the Church ?

The very closest cooperation is at work in the liturgy between the Holy Spirit and the Church. The Holy Spirit prepares the Church to encounter her Lord. He recalls and manifests Christ to the faith of the assembly. He makes the mystery of Christ really present. He unites the Church to the life and mission of Christ and makes the gift of communion bear fruit in the Church.

The paschal mystery in the sacraments of the church

What are the sacraments and which are they ?

The sacraments, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, are efficacious signs of grace perceptible to the senses. Through them divine life is bestowed upon us. There are seven sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist, Penance, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders and Matrimony.

What is the relationship of the sacraments to Christ ?

The Mysteries of Christ's life are the foundations of what he would henceforth dispense in the sacraments, through the ministers of His Church.



"What was visible in our Saviour has passed over into his mysteries."

St Leo the Great.

What is the link between the sacraments and the church ?

Christ has entrusted the sacraments to his Church. They are the sacraments "of the Church" in a twofold sense: they are "from her" in so far as they are actions of the Church which is the sacrament of Christ's action; and they are "for her" in as much as they build up the Church.

What is the sacramental character ?

It is a spiritual "seal" bestowed by the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders. It is a promise and guarantee of divine protection. By virtue of this seal the Christian is configured to Christ, participates in a variety of ways in His priesthood and takes his part in the Church according to different states and functions. He is, therefore, set apart for divine worship and the service of the Church. Because this character is indelible the sacraments that impress it on the soul are received only once in life.

It is essential that every Catholic has access to good Catechesis to be able to deepen their faith. The Diocese of Plymouth recommends the many Catechetical Workshops from 'Franciscan at Home,' for more information on access to these and online or real group sessions contact deborah.vankroonenburg@prcdtr.org.uk