

Sacramental People

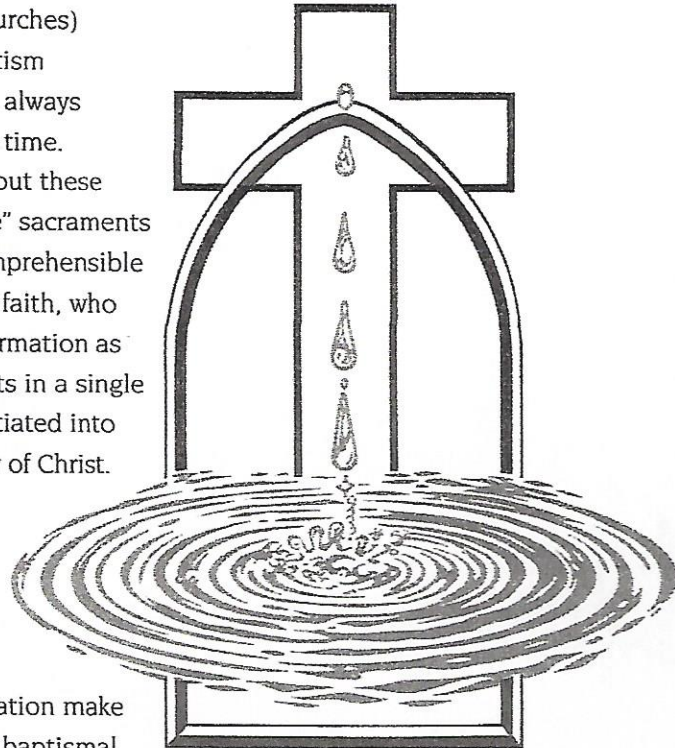
*As members of this parish community prepare for Confirmation,
we the faithful journey with them.*

Renewing Baptismal Promises

In the early Church (and still today in Eastern Catholic Churches) the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation were always celebrated at the same time.

Our way of thinking about these two rituals as "separate" sacraments would have been incomprehensible to our ancestors in the faith, who saw Baptism and Confirmation as two indivisible moments in a single experience of being initiated into the fullness of the Body of Christ.

The intimate bond that still links these two sacraments is one reason why it is required today that all candidates for Confirmation make a public renewal of the baptismal promises before receiving the sacrament. Confirmation completes or "seals" the graces of Baptism. This is why it is so appropriate that the candidates renew the baptismal promises during the rite of Confirmation.



Faith Focus

The baptismal promises commit us to a twofold action: rejection of sin and acceptance of grace from God whom we know as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The Church Says . . .

"The conjunction of the two celebrations [Baptism and Confirmation] signifies the unity of the paschal mystery; the close link between the mission of the Son and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and the connection between the two sacraments through which the Son and the Holy Spirit come with the Father to those who are baptized" (*Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* 215).

For Reflection

What difference does it make in my life when I renew my baptismal promises every year at Easter?

Prayer

*Loving God,
in Baptism we have come to know you
as our Father and Creator,
as Jesus our brother and Savior,
and as Holy Spirit, source of life and holiness.
Fill us with your love and strengthen us
to be faithful to our baptismal promises.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

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