



NEWMAN INSTITUTE

KNOWING, LOVING AND SHARING THE FAITH

IV. The Sacraments: The Celebration of the Christian Mystery

(4 sessions)

*“I have come so that they might have life
and have it more abundantly.*

*I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”
(Jn 10:10-11)*

“I cannot belong to Christ just for myself; I can belong to him only in union with all those who have become, or who will become, his own. Communion draws me out of myself towards him, and thus also towards unity with all Christians. We become ‘one body,’ completely joined in a single existence. Love of God and love of neighbor are now truly united: God incarnate draws us all to himself.”
(Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus caritas est*, n. 14)

Course Description: The mysteries professed in the Creed are communicated and actualized in the Sacraments of the Church. By providing participants with a deeper understanding of the divine origin, nature and central role of the Sacraments, this course will help participants grow in understanding of their role in the sacramental mission of the Church.

Reading and Reference Materials: *U.S. Catholic Catechism for Adults* (US/CCA, ch. 14-22); the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC, part 2); *The Compendium of the CCC* (Comp., part 2)

Course Sequence:

Session One: The Sacramental Economy*

What do the Liturgy and the Sacraments have to do with my life, and with the life of the Church?

1. The Paschal Mystery in the Age of the Church
2. The Sacramental Celebration of the Paschal Mystery

Session Two: The Sacraments of Initiation*

If the Sacraments of Initiation are the foundations of the Christian life, how can I let them transform my daily life?

1. Baptism
2. Confirmation
3. Eucharist

Session Three: The Sacraments of Healing*

How does God respond to human suffering in the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick?

1. Reconciliation or Penance
2. Anointing of the Sick

Session Four: The Sacraments of Service*

How can we help respond to the crisis of vocations—both to priesthood and to marriage?

1. Holy Orders
2. Matrimony

*Each Session is 2 Hours long, plus recommended follow-up activity.

Session One: The Sacramental Economy

(2 Hours)

(CCC, 1066-1209; Comp., 218-49)

What do the Liturgy and the Sacraments have to do with my life, and with the life of the Church?

1. The Paschal Mystery in the Age of the Church
 - *The Liturgy as the work of the Most Holy Trinity
2. The Sacramental Celebration of the Paschal Mystery
 - *The who, how, when, and where of celebrating the Mystery

Learning Objectives:

- * Describe the meaning of ritual and the nature of Liturgy, and discuss how the Liturgy is the work of the Holy Trinity.
- *Define Sacrament and Paschal Mystery; explain how the Paschal Mystery is central to the Church's Sacramental Economy, and discuss the relationship of the Liturgy to the Paschal Mystery.
- *Discuss the sanctifying work of Christ in the Sacraments, and the centrality of the Eucharist; discuss the Sacraments as Sacraments of Christ and Sacraments of the Church; analyze the effects of the Sacraments.
- *Discuss the liturgical year, and identify role of the liturgy of the hours within the life of the Church.

Recommended Follow-Up: Read US/CCA, Ch. 14, "The Celebration of the Paschal Mystery of Christ"; post responses to discussion questions on pp. 176-77.

Session 2: Sacraments of Initiation (CCC, 1210-1419; Comp., n. 250-94)
(2 hours)

If the Sacraments of Initiation are the foundations of the Christian life, how can I let them transform my daily life?

1. Baptism
2. Confirmation
3. Eucharist

Learning Objectives:

*Discuss the universal call to holiness for all baptized persons; identify the gifts of the Holy Spirit received at Baptism and sealed at Confirmation; define the common priesthood of all baptized Christians.

*Explain the essential doctrines pertaining to the Sacrament of Baptism and Confirmation; discuss the relationship of Confirmation and Baptism; state the purpose of the catechumenal process.

*Analyze the centrality of the Eucharist in the life of the Church; discuss the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist; describe the sacrificial nature of the Mass; identify the meaning of Eucharist as thanksgiving; explain the essential doctrines pertaining to the Sacrament of the Eucharist; define transubstantiation in relation to real presence

*Explain how Christian initiation is completed, as well as the relationship among the Sacraments of initiation.

Recommended Follow-Up: Read US/CCA, Ch. 17, “The Eucharist: Source and Summit of the Christian Life”; post responses to discussion questions on pg. 228.

Session 3: Sacraments of Healing

(2 hours) (CCC, n. 1420-1532; Comp., n. 295-)

How does God respond to human suffering in the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick?

1. Reconciliation or Penance
2. Anointing of the Sick

Learning Objectives:

*Explain the importance of the Sacrament of Reconciliation; review the acts of the penitent; compare mortal and venial sin; discuss indulgences in relation to Penance.

*Relate Anointing of the Sick to the mystery of the Cross and redemptive suffering; highlight the Biblical and historical roots of Anointing of the Sick; identify the form, matter, minister, and effects of Anointing the Sick.

Recommended Follow-Up: Read US/CCA, Ch. 18 and 19, “Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation” and “Anointing of the Sick”; post responses to discussion questions on pg. 257.

Session 4: The Sacraments of Service

(2 hours) (CCC 1533- 1664)

How can we help respond to the crisis of vocations—both to priesthood and to marriage?

1. Holy Orders
2. Matrimony

Learning Objectives:

*Relate the ministerial priesthood to the priesthood of Christ; identify the three degrees of the sacrament of Holy Orders; address the meaning of priestly celibacy, and the reasons why the Church reserves ministerial priesthood to males alone.

*Define the of Sacrament of Marriage and its essential characteristics; discuss God’s plan for marriage and the Church’s duty to safeguard marriage; address the meaning of a declaration of nullity for marriage

Recommended Follow-Up: Read US/CCA, Ch. 20-21, “Holy Orders” and “Sacrament of Marriage”, post responses to discussion questions.

Resources:

Teaching the Sacraments

http://www.catechist.com/archive/articles_view.php?article_id=2412

The Seven Sacraments

http://www.catechist.com/archive/articles_view.php?article_id=2281

Sacramental Living http://www.catechist.com/archive/articles_view.php?article_id=2023

The Gift of the Sacraments

http://www.catechist.com/archive/articles_view.php?article_id=2022

Sacraments a new perspective

http://www.catechist.com/archive/articles_view.php?article_id=1689

Take home sacraments

http://www.catechist.com/archive/articles_view.php?article_id=2823

Teaching the Sacraments of Initiation

http://www.catechist.com/archive/articles_view.php?article_id=2013

Reconciliation: http://www.catechist.com/archive/articles_view.php?article_id=2012

Penance and Reconciliation

http://www.catechist.com/archive/articles_view.php?article_id=2018

Teaching the Eucharist

http://www.catechist.com/archive/articles_view.php?article_id=2817

Teaching about Holy Thursday

http://www.catechist.com/archive/articles_view.php?article_id=2492

Real Presence Movies to Teach about the Eucharist

http://www.catechist.com/archive/articles_view.php?article_id=2422

Exploring the Mass http://www.catechist.com/archive/articles_view.php?article_id=2410

Teaching the Sacrament of Matrimony to Middle School Children:

http://www.catechist.com/archive/articles_view.php?article_id=2827

Teaching about the Sacrament of Holy Orders

http://www.catechist.com/archive/articles_view.php?article_id=2411

Ten Ways to make your classes more liturgical

http://www.catechist.com/archive/articles_view.php?article_id=1742

What is the Mass and how has it changed through History

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dxbPrr-KrDw&feature=related>