

SACRAMENT
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Irene Haefele
fleatoo@cox.net

US Catholic Catechism for Adults p.168-170, 115-116.
New Catholic Answer Bible K-1, R-4

'Sacramentum' meant an oath or a pledge of fidelity.

Definition in Adult Catechism on p. 169.

Another definition: Sacraments are "visible signs of God's saving love.
(CCC #773)
Sacraments involve visible and invisible elements.

Jesus Christ is at work in the sacraments. Through the sacraments, Jesus Christ provides grace.

Consider sign
symbol
event/encounter

We encounter God more often than we might think..IF..we are paying attention. This shapes our spirituality.

We encounter God in events and aspects of everyday life.

- We encounter God in the person of Jesus.
- We encounter Jesus through the CHURCH.
- The world encounters the Church through US.

DISCUSS

If you are not Catholic, what is your experience with the word 'sacrament'?

How is the Church a visible sign (or encounter) of Jesus in the world?

How are we to be a visible sign (encounter) of Jesus in the world?

How are you to be a visible sign (encounter) of Jesus in the world?

Consider: We are called to BE Church vs. JOIN Church.

The Catholic Church (led by the Holy Spirit) has made special seven particular times in live when we "officially" encounter God.

Baptism

Matrimony

Reconciliation

Eucharist

Holy Orders

Anointing of the Sick

Confirmation

“Christ shield me this day:
Christ with me,
Christ before me,
Christ behind me,
Christ in me,
Christ beneath me,
Christ above me,
Christ on my right,
Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down,
Christ when I arise,
Christ in the heart of every person
who thinks of me,
Christ in the eye that sees me,
Christ in the ear that hears me.”

The Breastplate of St. Patrick

FIRST AND THE LAST

By Michael John Poirier, "Stone by Stone", World Library Publications, 1990.

Refrain:

Before and behind,
Above and below,
You are surrounding me
Everywhere I go.
Lord of moments to come
And memories past,
You are the first and the last.

Bring us beyond all fear.
Draw us into Your heart.
Let us at last
Begin to embrace
The peace that flows out from You.

Refrain.

When You seem far away,
When it's hard to understand,
Your love outshines
The deepest darkness
If we have eyes to see...
Give us eyes to see.

Refrain.