

# **The Sacraments**

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*Source of Our Life in Christ*

Student Workbook

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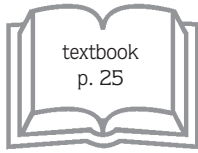
*The Didache Series*

– SEMESTER EDITION –

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## Chapter 1

# BAPTISM

1. What does the Acts of the Apostles tell us about the sacramental practices of the earliest Christians, dating back to the very day of Pentecost?

## INTRODUCTION

2. What is the difference between our physical birth from our mothers' wombs and our rebirth in Baptism?
3. Why is Baptism seen as the basis and foundation of the Christian life?

## PREFIGURATION OF BAPTISM IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

4. Explain how each of the following events from the Old Testament prefigures Baptism.  
The Holy Spirit breathed upon the waters at the first moment of creation (Gn 1: 1–2)

Noah and the Great Flood (Gn 6: 5–22; 7: 1–24; 8: 1–22; 9: 1–17)

Moses and the Israelites crossing the Red Sea (Ex 14: 15–31)

Joshua and the Israelites crossing the Jordan River as they entered the Promised Land (Jos 3: 1–17)

5. One of the titles given to the Catholic Church over the centuries has been the “Barque of St. Peter.” (The word *barque* comes from Middle French, meaning *boat*.) How does the story of Noah and the ark prefigure the Church and St. Peter?

## JEWISH RITES OF PURIFICATION AT THE TIME OF CHRIST

6. The Greek word *baptizein* means \_\_\_\_\_.
7. In general, how was the action of *taval* used in the Old Testament?
8. How was this then translated or transferred into the New Testament understanding of Baptism?

## ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST AND THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

9. St. John the Baptist may have been a member of the group called the Essenes. What were some of the practices particular to this group?

10. Even if St. John the Baptist was never a member of the Essenes, which of their practices did he adopt?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
11. By his own adamant preaching, how did St. John the Baptist draw a clear distinction between his baptism and the Sacrament of Baptism, which, during his life, had never been instituted?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
12. Why was Jesus baptized by St. John the Baptist?

## INSTITUTION OF BAPTISM BY CHRIST

13. How is the Sacrament of Baptism radically different from the baptism of St. John or other purification rituals? (Refer back to the fact that sacraments are *efficacious*, and include that in your answer.)

## BAPTISM AS SACRAMENT

14. Baptism causes many things to happen in the soul of the baptized person. This section mentions three. What are they?

15. We see in this section many names associated with Baptism. Read each name and description and then look up the following citations from Scripture to match them to the name for Baptism that correspond to them.

- |               |                   |                                |
|---------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| ___ anointing | ___ enlightenment | ___ renewal by the Holy Spirit |
| ___ bath      | ___ gift          | ___ seal                       |
| ___ clothing  | ___ grace         | ___ washing of regeneration    |

- A. Galatians 3: 27
- B. Acts 9: 37
- C. John 1: 16; 1 John 3: 1–3
- D. 1 Peter 3: 20–21
- E. Revelation 3: 18
- F. Ephesians 1: 13
- G. Acts 10: 44–48
- H. Romans 3: 23–24; 11: 29
- I. Acts 9: 17–19; Ephesians 5: 8

## EFFECTS OF BAPTISM

16. List the theological virtues (see 1 Cor 13: 13).

17. List the moral or cardinal virtues.

18. The Sacraments of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ impart an indelible mark on the soul of the person receiving them.

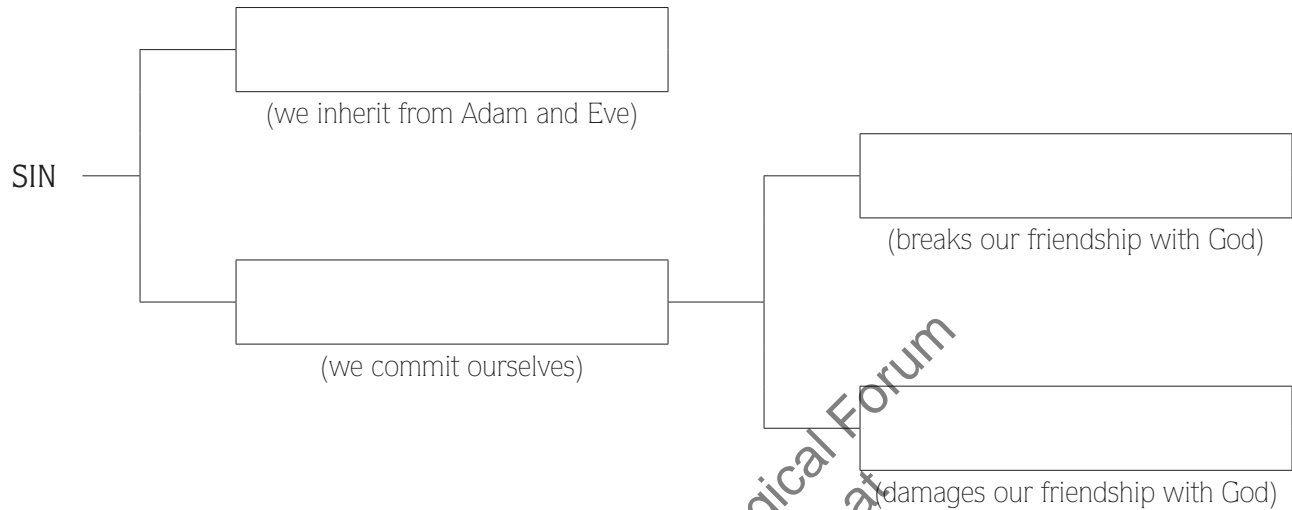
This means that in Heaven, we will know who has received these Sacraments. The indelible mark or sacramental character is imparted *ex opere operato*. What does this mean?

19. Susan was born into a family that belongs to a Protestant church. As a young person, she accepted Christ as her Savior and was baptized by her pastor, who plunged her into the church's baptismal pool as he said, "Susan, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." Later, when she was in college, Susan began to read the writings of the Early Church Fathers as well as European history. As a result of her studies, she concluded that the Church founded by Jesus Christ was the Catholic Church. After speaking with the priest at the Newman Center on her college campus, she enrolled in RCIA classes with the intention of becoming Catholic. At the Easter Vigil, when people such as Susan are joyfully received into the Catholic Church, will she be baptized? Why or why not?
20. Juan Carlos was never baptized as an infant. At age twenty-three, he joined a newly formed group of Christians who insisted that their practices were based on the Bible. After reading a number of verses of Scripture (e.g., Acts 10: 47–48; 19: 4–5), where it states that people were "baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus," Juan Carlos and several others received baptism, with their pastor using the formula, "I baptize you in the name of the Lord Jesus." After attending the Catholic funeral of one of his friends, Juan Carlos felt a strong attraction to the Catholic Faith. He introduced himself to the local parish priest and began to meet with him for instruction. Now that Juan Carlos is ready to become Catholic, will he need to be baptized? Why or why not?

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## ORIGINAL SIN AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

21. Within each box, write the proper term for each type of sin described.



Which of the above sins does Baptism eliminate?

22. What is sin?

23. What effect did Original Sin have on the descendants of Adam and Eve, namely, us?

*(Many times people protest that God is unjust for allowing us to suffer the results of the sin of Adam and Eve. After all, none of us ate from the tree! However, for something to be unjust, we must be unjustly deprived of something to which we have a right. God created us out of an act of love, not out of obligation. God owes us nothing. Therefore, no one can claim that God is unjust, since he is not bound to us by any debt or obligation. A second thought to consider is the example of a child born to a woman addicted to drugs. The child did not take the drugs, the mother did. But the child still suffers due to the wrongful actions of the mother. It is the same with us as the descendants of Adam and Eve. We did not commit Original Sin, but we suffer the consequences. All the more, then, is the reason to praise and love God who shows us such love, mercy, and generosity!)*



24. What is *concupiscence*, and how is it related to the Christian life?

## CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

### MATTER

25. What is the matter that is used in the celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism?

26. Why is Baptism by immersion such a powerful sign of what this sacrament accomplishes?

27. What is Baptism by *affusion*?

28. What is the *Didache*, when was it written, and what does it say about Baptism by affusion? (Consult the vocabulary section of this chapter.)

### FORM

29. What is the sacramental *form* for the valid celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism?

## MINISTER

30. The ordinary minister of the Sacrament of Baptism is a \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_, but in an emergency, \_\_\_\_\_ can baptize, if they have the right intention.
31. Why should every Catholic memorize the sacramental form for Baptism?

## RITE OF BAPTISM

32. Why is baptizing an infant much more than simply bringing the child to church for a ceremony?

### a. WHAT NAME HAVE YOU GIVEN YOUR CHILD?

33. It is becoming more and more common for parents to invent unique names for their children. After reading this section, especially the excerpt from Pope John Paul II's sermon that he gave at Westminster Cathedral in London, what should be the source of names for Christian children, and why?