

Effective Liturgical Catechesis

Session I: Baptism

PRAYER OVER THE WATERS OF BAPTISM	
O God, who by invisible power accomplish a wondrous effect through sacramental signs and who in many ways have prepared water, your creation, to show forth the grace of Baptism;	Df. sacrament
O God, whose Spirit in the first moments of the world's creation hovered over the waters, so that the very substance of water would even then take to itself the power to sanctify;	Gn 1:2f
O God, who by the outpouring of the flood foreshadowed regeneration, so that from the mystery of one and the same element of water would come an end to vice and a beginning of virtue;	Gn 7 1 Pt 3:20
O God, who caused the children of Abraham to pass dry-shod through the Red Sea, so that the chosen people, set free from slavery to Pharaoh, would prefigure the people of the baptized;	Gn 12 Ex 14
O God, whose Son, baptized by John in the waters of the Jordan, was anointed with the Holy Spirit, and, as he hung upon the Cross, gave forth water from his side along with blood, and after his Resurrection, commanded his disciples: "Go forth, teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," look now, we pray, upon the face of your Church and graciously unseal for her the fountain of Baptism.	Mt 3:13; Mk 1:9-11; Lk 3:21-22 Jn 10:40 2 Kg 2:19-22 2 Kg 6 Ex 15:25 Sir 38:5 Jn 19:31-34 Mt 28:19
May this water receive by the Holy Spirit the grace of your Only Begotten Son, so that human nature, created in your image and washed clean through the Sacrament of Baptism from all the squalor of the life of old, may be found worthy to rise to the life of newborn children through water and the Holy Spirit.	James 1:21
May the power of the Holy Spirit, O Lord, we pray, come down through your Son into the fullness of this font, so that all who have been buried with Christ by Baptism into death may rise again to life with him. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,	Gn 1: 20 Rm 6:3

one God, for ever and ever.	
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Session II: Marriage

Nuptial Blessing	
<p>Dear brothers and sisters, let us humbly pray to the Lord that on these his servants, now married in Christ, he may mercifully pour out the blessing of his grace and make of one heart in love (by the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood) those he has joined by a holy covenant.</p>	<p>[Introduction: Ps 122}</p>
<p><i>And all pray in silence for a while.</i> <i>Then the Priest, with hands extended over the bride and bridegroom,</i> <i>continues:</i></p> <p>O God, who by your mighty power created all things out of nothing, and, when you had set in place the beginnings of the universe, formed man and woman in your own image, making the woman an inseparable helpmate to the man, that they might no longer be two, but one flesh, and taught that what you were pleased to make one must never be divided;</p>	<p>Gn 1:2 Gn 2:7 Gn 2:21 Gn 2:23-24</p> <p>Mt 19:6 Mk 10:9</p> <p>GS, 48 CCC, 1601</p>

<p>O God, who consecrated the bond of Marriage by so great a mystery that in the wedding covenant you foreshadowed the Sacrament of Christ and his Church;</p>	<p>Eph 5:31-32</p>
<p>O God, by whom woman is joined to man and the companionship they had in the beginning is endowed with the one blessing not forfeited by original sin nor washed away by the flood.</p>	<p>Gn 3 Gn 7</p>
<p>Look now with favor on these your servants, joined together in Marriage, who ask to be strengthened by your blessing. Send down on them the grace of the Holy Spirit and pour your love into their hearts, that they may remain faithful in the Marriage covenant.</p>	<p>CCC, 1624</p>
<p>May the grace of love and peace abide in your daughter N., and let her always follow the example of those holy women whose praises are sung in the Scriptures. May her husband entrust his heart to her, so that, acknowledging her as his equal and his joint heir to the life of grace, he may show her due honor and cherish her always with the love that Christ has for his Church.</p>	<p>Sir 26 Pro 31:31 Gn 1:26 1 Pt 3:7</p>
<p>And now, Lord, we implore you: may these your servants hold fast to the faith and keep your commandments; made one in the flesh, may they be blameless in all they do; and with the strength that comes from the Gospel, may they bear true witness to Christ before all; (may they be blessed with children, and prove themselves virtuous parents, who live to see their children's children).</p>	<p>Pro 17:6 Gn 1:28</p>
<p>And grant that, reaching at last together the fullness of years for which they hope, they may come to the life of the blessed in the Kingdom of Heaven. Through Christ our Lord</p>	<p>CCC, 1640</p>

Session III: Mass/Ordination

Various Texts

Ordination of a Deacon	
<p>Draw near, we pray, Almighty God, giver of every grace, who apportion every order and assign every office; who remain unchanged, but make all things new.</p> <p>In your eternal providence, you make provision for every age, as you order all creation through him who is your word, your power and your wisdom, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.</p>	<p>James 4:8 Rev. 21:5 Is 3:19</p> <p>2 Cor 5:17 Heb 11:3 1 Cor 1:24</p>
<p>You grant that the Church, his body, adorned with manifold heavenly graces, drawn together in the diversity of its members, and united by a wondrous bond through the Holy Spirit, should grow and spread forth to build up a new temple and, as once you chose the sons of Levi to minister in the former tabernacle, so now you establish three ranks of ministers in their sacred offices to serve in your name.</p>	<p>1 Cor 12/13 Eph 2:21 Ez 40 1 Cor 3:16 Nb 3:6-12 1 Pt 2:5 Eph 2:21-22</p>
<p>And so, in the first days of your Church, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, your Son's Apostles appointed seven men of good repute to assist them in their daily ministry, that they might devote themselves more fully to prayer and preaching of the word. By prayer and the laying on of hands they entrusted to those chosen men the ministry of serving at table.</p>	<p>Acts 6</p>
<p>We beseech you, Lord: look with favor on these servants of yours who will minister at your holy altar and whom we now humbly dedicate to the office of deacon. Send forth upon them, Lord, we pray, the Holy Spirit, that they may be strengthened by the gift of your sevenfold grace for the faithful carrying</p>	<p>Is 11:2</p>

<p>out of the work of the ministry. May there abound in them every Gospel virtue: unfeigned love, concern for the sick and poor, unassuming authority, the purity of innocence, and the observance of spiritual discipline.</p>	
<p>May your commandments shine forth in their conduct, so that by the example of their way of life they may inspire the imitation of your holy people. In offering the witness of a clear conscience, may they remain strong and steadfast in Christ, so that by imitating on earth your Son, who came not to be served but to serve, they may be found worthy to reign in heaven with him, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.</p>	<p>CCC, 23 1 Pt 3:16 Luke 22:27/ Mt 20:28/ Mk 10:45/ Jn 13:1-17 Rev 5:10</p>