

# KeYsis Outline

9/12/07

*Faith Fact: The church is made up of two rites—the Latin & the Eastern*

## **The Sacraments**

**A Sacrament:** An efficacious sign of grace by which divine life is dispensed to us through the work of the Holy Spirit.

*Name the 7 Sacraments*

A visible reality that reveals an invisible mystery

- The body reveals the spirit (Hector)
- In the same way the water of baptism and the bread of the Eucharist are visible signs that are means by which Christ gives grace (i.e. divine life) to his people.
- Whatever...there just symbols to represent some thing. They don't actually do anything!

Sign vs symbol

- We DO NOT consider the sacraments as pretty symbols that don't really matter.
- Faith is all a matter of intellect and will, it's what you believe. Catholics get bogged down in the particulars
  - Story of a pastor using potato chips and coke for the Lord's Supper
- **MATTER MATTERS!**
  - Baptism—**Acts 2:38**
  - Eucharist—**Jn 6:52-28**
- God created as spiritual/physical creatures that experience both realities. We use our five senses to experience the world. Why wouldn't God what to use His creation in a powerful way to reveal Himself to us.
- That's why Catholicism is considered a **Sensual Religion**
  - Bells & smells
  - We use all five of our sense at Mass
  - Mass allows us to worship God with our whole body and spirit.

Efficacious

- Efficacious: has an effect, causes a change. Imparts grace.
- Grace: the free and undeserved gift that God gives us to respond to our vocation to become his adopted children; divine life

- Christianity without Grace is like trying to breathe without oxygen. Grace is the oxygen that allows us to be alive in Christ
- The sacraments actually have the power to transform us via the transmission of grace—EFFICACIOUS
  - Story of the man whose wife noticed he'd become more patient and caring after converting and going to daily mass
- “Since it belongs to the supernatural order, grace escapes our experience and cannot be known except by faith” CCC 2005
  - Not like a video game where you have extra powers for 10 seconds

### **Recap the definition**

- **Visible reality**
- **Not just a symbol—Matter matters!!**
- **Efficacious**