

Presentation to St. Mary, Edwardsville on Restored Order

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As you may have noticed in the bulletin, in the spirit of Vatican II, we will be restoring the Sacraments of Initiation to the original order. On November 26, 2017, in response to Synod recommendations, Bishop Thomas John Paprocki promulgated a new norm concerning the restoration of the original order of the Sacraments of Initiation. Those Sacraments being, Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

At Baptism we are washed clean, buried with Christ, and birthed into the Church. Confirmation completes Baptism through the special outpouring of the Holy spirit.

Christian initiation starts with Baptism, which is completed with Confirmation, and leads to Eucharist which is the source and summit of Christian life and the goal of all the sacraments.

So, Confirmation is a step toward Eucharist/Full communion with the Church for the rest of our life.

What is a Sacrament? It is a dispensed gift of Grace, not a carrot, not earned and not something to be withheld. It is the outward sign of an inward Grace given from God as gift. It is an act of God, a sacred sign. The Catechism of the Catholic Church calls it an efficacious sign of Grace. CCC1131

It's important to remember Confirmation is a Gift from God not a gift from the church given through the Church

The Original Order dates to the first Christians as they were initiated into a new religion. Through the centuries, for various reasons, the Sacraments of Initiation lost their unity. We are embarking on the journey to restore those Sacraments to the original order and their intended meaning.

Our biggest challenge will be to the changes that we will need to see as we move forward. The diocese has given guidelines approved by the Bishop to implement this process. In a nutshell, starting 2018-2019 second grade will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation as always but will not receive First Holy Communion until third grade. They will be Confirmed and receive Eucharist at the same liturgy (Mass).

Those children who have already received First Communion will be confirmed in eighth grade. This will continue until 2024 when the last eighth graders will be confirmed. Starting 2020 the eighth grade and third grade will be Confirmed at the same liturgy. The Third graders will also receive First Communion at that liturgy.

This year eighth graders will be confirmed as usual.

Change is difficult for all of us and we like stability, but change is necessary for growth.

We are restoring something very beautiful and something that is in line with Catholic Tradition. Something lost, something recovered. In the spirit of our Catholic Tradition, Both And....

We are not the decision makers

We are the implementors and I will need the support of the entire parish as we restore the richness of the Sacraments of Initiation.

We are best prepared for this journey with knowledge.

I invite you to join us tomorrow morning at 9:15 for a short explanation and history.

I am open to questions. Perhaps I won't have all the answers, but we can find the answers together.

More information can be found of the Diocese of Springfield Illinois web page under Office of Catechesis.