

Sacraments and Their Ministers

Confession exists in two forms. Sacramental confession, which conveys the full authority given by Christ to His Apostles, belongs only to male priests who possess valid Apostolic succession. Lay confession is granted to all believers who approach God with perfect contrition, and any person may pray for the forgiveness of sins in this manner.

Sacramental Eucharist

The Eucharist exists in three modes:

Transubstantiation

Requires a male priest with Apostolic succession, proper matter, form, and intention.

Bread and wine literally become Christ's body and blood.

Conveys the full grace of Christ and fully enacts His High Priestly office.

Male priests and bishops are the only ones who can concentrate the sacramental Eucharist.

Spiritual Eucharist

Real Presence without Succession

Proper matter and intention required; Apostolic succession not needed.

Bread and wine remain materially bread and wine, but Christ is truly present within them.

Grace is conveyed, though the ontological conversion does not occur.

Anyone who is male can concentrate the spiritual Eucharist

Symbolic Eucharist

Symbolic/Semblance

Occurs when matter is invalid (e.g., grape juice), though proper intention is maintained.

Elements remain materially bread and wine; Christ's presence is represented symbolically.

Grace may still be received spiritually, but no conversion occurs.

There is literally no concentration generally male lead.

Confirmation

Confirmation does not enact priestly functions and may therefore be given by any trusted believer, including women, when circumstances require it.

Marriage

Marriage is ordained by God as the union of one man and one woman. Any other union has no sacramental standing and cannot be blessed.

Holy Orders

Holy Orders are reserved for men. Women may serve the Church in many ways, but they cannot bear apostolic ministry.

Anointing of the Sick belongs to male clergy alone, for it is joined to the authority Christ bestowed on His Apostles. Yet any believer may pray for the sick in faith.

Sacramental modes

Sacramental modes convey the full grace of Christ through a valid priest who stands within Apostolic succession. Spiritual modes convey grace without the succession, but they do not replace the sacramental priesthood ordained by God.

Spiritual Sacraments

Baptism

Requirements: Apostolic succession not required; universal.

Mechanism: Any believer may baptize; sacrament functions through proper invocation of the Trinity.

Effect: Initiates a person into the Church and conveys grace.

Baptism washes away sin and brings the believer into the New Covenant. Because it does not signify the priestly ministry of Christ, it may be performed by any believer, including women, whenever necessity or circumstance requires it. Baptism has no spiritual mode, for it already conveys grace as the Lord instituted it.

Confirmation

Requirements: Depends on Church Canon; Apostolic succession not required. Mechanism: Authority derives from canonical recognition rather than Persona Christi.

Effect: Strengthens the baptized in faith and formally marks them as a member of the church community.

Reconciliation

Requirements: Apostolic succession and Persona Christi bypassed. Mechanism: Forgiveness granted

through perfect contrition and confession to a minister.

Effect: Spiritual forgiveness and reconciliation with God. Enables some functions of other sacrament as well as being its own sacrament

Holy Orders

Requirements: Men may be ordained as deacons, priests, and bishops; women may be ordained as deacons; does not confer apostolic succession.

Mechanism: Confers office and authority, establishing church hierarchy. Effect: Organizes church governance

Anointing of the Sick

Requirements: Any believer may perform; Apostolic succession and Persona Christi bypassed.

Mechanism: Olive oil blessed by any male; hands laid on the sick while invoking the Holy Spirit; sins confessed with perfect contrition.

Effect: Provides strengthening, comfort, and forgiveness of sins.

Women and the Spiritual sacraments

Baptism and Confirmation have no spiritual forms; they simply are what the Lord established. Because they do not enact priestly symbolism, they may be administered by women. Spiritual confession is also open to all, for it depends upon contrition and prayer, not apostolic authority.

Any sacrament that symbolizes or represents the priestly office of Christ whether sacramental or spiritual is reserved for men.

High Church structure preferred:

While technically any believer may perform these sacraments, priests and bishops are generally the primary ministers.

Purpose of hierarchy:

Ensures liturgical propriety and sacramental consistency. Provides communal oversight and recognition.

Maintains order while allowing sacraments to function without apostolic succession.

While the seven sacraments are normally achieved through apostolic succession, we affirm the miraculous miracles of God all seven sacraments still exist in their ordinary form despite the existence of the spiritual sacraments

Clarification on what male means

Consult the document of functions and genders and the definition in accordance with that document