

## Legacy of Legacies

Each person wants to leave a legacy behind after he/she dies. Some wish to be remembered as a great athlete, a brilliant scholar, a devoted parent, or just as a well-liked person. Whether it be for the good or the bad, every one desires to be remembered. But as limited, finite creatures, that's all we can be after we depart from this life: remembered. The work we give ourselves to can not be continued by us; it will only go on by the industry of others.

While on earth, the work Jesus Christ gave himself to, literally, was the redemption of souls. Jesus is indeed human, but he is also God – a fantastic mystery of our faith! Therefore, unlike other human beings, He does not just leave behind a legacy, a memory. He can continue His work of saving and sanctifying souls in the present, and He does so through the power of His Spirit, the Holy Spirit, in the sacraments. Although the priest administers the sacraments, it is Christ who is acting through and in them; it is by His power that the sacrament imparts grace, the life of God. It is not the holiness of the priest but the very holiness of God that makes the sacrament life-giving. In all the seven sacraments, Baptism, Confirmation, Confession, Holy Orders, Anointing of the Sick, Marriage, and Eucharist, we encounter Christ and His saving work.

What is the great implication of this truth, the truth that the sacraments place the soul in direct contact with Christ's redemptive work and impart the life of God to it? The implication is that God desires each person to be holy. Jesus Himself makes public this desire when He says before a crowd during the Sermon on the Mount, "...be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect." Jesus directed this command to be holy to a crowd of people, not just to select people or to the Jewish elite. Likewise, the sacraments are not just offered to a select few. Nuns and priests as well as "ordinary" people like the bag boy at Kroger are all called to receive the sacraments, to encounter Christ and to receive His life-giving grace: They are called to holiness.

This may seem hard to believe, that everyone, not just those who are called to religious life, is called to be holy. Yet upon further reflection, the universal call to holiness is in line with common sense. It is holy marriages, made up of "ordinary" husbands and wives, which produce those men and women who are called to religious life. Within these holy families is the next generation taught to know, love and serve God – parents are indeed their children's primary teacher. Holiness takes root in the family, which is the basic and "ordinary" unit of both Church and society, and then can emanate out to the parish and then from the parish out to society. Satan's relentless attacks on the sanctity and dignity of the family, through abortion, pornography, fornication, adultery, homosexual behavior, and the like, is further proof of this truth. Satan knows his true threat: families made holy by frequent and faithful reception of the sacraments.

Families must mobilize against the ever vigilant enemy and arm and strengthen themselves with the grace of the sacraments. In doing so, those families will leave the legacy of legacies behind: that of being a holy family.

+All For...+

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