

The Sacraments

Celebrations of the Fulfillment
of God's Plan for the World



Catechism Definition

Sacred signs

instituted by Christ through the Church

to “give” grace.

The Seven Sacraments

- # **Initiation:** Baptism, Confirmation, and the Holy Eucharist
 - # **Healing:** Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick
 - # **Vocation:** Marriage and Holy Orders
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Origin of the word “Sacrament”

The Latin word *Sacramentum* is associated with the Greek word *Mysterion*.

Mysterion is used in the New Testament to refer to a **plan** (Ephesians 3:9)

“The wonderful, *mysterious* plan that God had before creation began.”

The *Mysterion* . . .

God's Original Plan for the World

For in him were created all things in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers; all things were created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Col 1:16-17

The *Mysterion* . . .

God's Original Plan for the World

Then God said: "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. . . ."

Gn 1:26

God's Plan vs. Human Reality

“Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized that they were naked; When they heard the sound of the LORD God moving about in the garden at the breezy time of the day, the man and his wife hid themselves from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.”

(Gn. 3:7-8)

God's Dream – Plan B

“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; He will strike at your head, while you strike at his heel.”

(Gn. 3:15)

God's Dream – Plan B

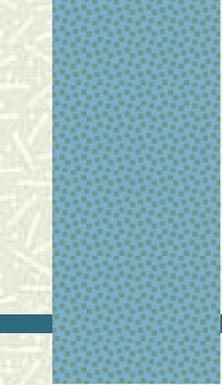
“God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

Jn. 3:16

God's Dream – Plan B

Despite human failure, God's plan is accomplished through the passion, death and resurrection of the Jesus Christ

And offered to us through the Sacraments



And so . . . the Sacraments are:

- # the fulfillment of God's mysterious plan to bring all things together in Christ.
 - # the celebration of the presence of Christ inviting us to share his divine life.
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And so . . . the Sacraments are:

- # Intense moments of encounters with God in Christ
 - # Through the sacraments we respond to God's self-giving and draw closer to God . . .and to one another
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Back to the Catechism

“A sacrament is an outward sign instituted by Christ to give grace.”

