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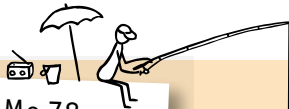
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WHAT A GIFT!

10

Eucharist—the
Generosity of God

Many young people don't like going to Holy Mass. Some of them say, "It's the wrong type of music, and they're the wrong type of people!" Others simply say, "I find it all completely boring." And they prefer just to stay in bed—especially since very often their parents themselves don't bother to go to Holy Mass. Read up in the YOUCAT sometime about the "kiss duty" business! (page 131)



→ 219

How often must a Catholic Christian participate in the celebration of the Eucharist?

10

wash myself
Reasons why I do not go to church

1. As a child I was made to wash.
2. People who keep on washing are just hypocrites, who think they are cleaner than other people.
3. There are so many different sorts of soap. How am I supposed to know which is the best one for me?
4. All the water companies are simply after our money.
5. I've tried washing from time to time, but it was always so boring, and always the same.
6. It's always so cold and uninviting in the bathroom.
7. I do wash at Christmas and Easter. Surely that's enough?
8. None of my friends seems to think it's necessary to wash.
9. I really don't have time to wash.
10. Maybe I'll wash one day, when I get older.



→ 345

What are the "Five Precepts of the Church"?

So we need to have some very good arguments if we are going to put this appointment right at the top of our to-do list.



You reply:

Amen.

This means something like:

Yes, so be it. I want this.
I agree to this.

The bishop then says:

Peace be with you.

The newly confirmed responds:

And with your spirit.

So now you are confirmed.

After this, a number of prayers (intercessions) are offered for the newly confirmed, their parents and sponsors, for the whole Church and for all mankind. But the crucial point is the seal of the Holy Spirit on your forehead. At the World Youth Day in Sydney, Pope Benedict explained to the young people there what it means to receive this sign on your forehead:



What does it mean to receive the “seal” of the Holy Spirit?

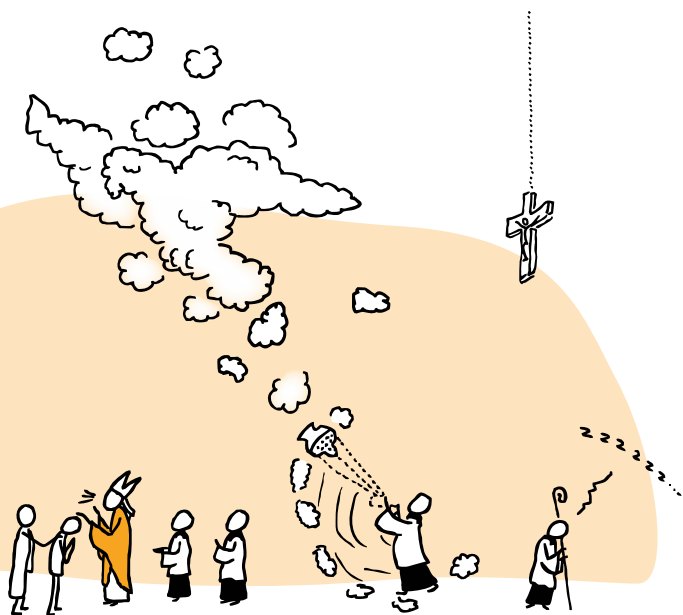
It means being indelibly marked, inalterably changed, a new creation. For those who have received this gift, nothing can ever be the same! Being “baptized” in the one Spirit means being set on fire with the love of God. Being “given to drink” of the Spirit means being refreshed by the beauty of the Lord’s plan for us and for the world, and becoming in turn a source of spiritual refreshment for others. Being “sealed with the Spirit” means not being afraid to stand up for Christ; it means letting the truth of the Gospel permeate the way we see, think and act, as we work for the triumph of the civilization of love.



→ cf.
1 Corinthians
12:13



Make the most of it! God is with you.



Sources

The examination of conscience is taken from the German pamphlet entitled *Sünde ist ... die Liebe leugnen* (Sin means ... denying love), edited by Bernhard Riedl, Archdiocese of Cologne 2008.

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