

# *The Restored Order of The Sacraments of Initiation*

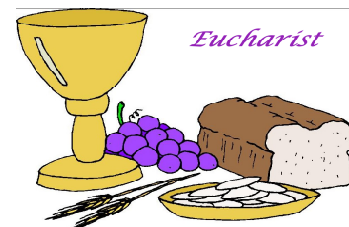
*“The Sacraments of Christian Initiation – Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist  
– lay the foundations of every Christian life” (CCC 1212)*

*Is the “restored order” of the Sacraments of Initiation something new in the Church?*

Absolutely not! The celebration of Baptism, followed by the sealing of the newly initiated with Chrism (Confirmation) before being invited to the Eucharistic table, has been part of the Church's constant Tradition since the very beginning.

During the first 500 years of the history of the Roman Catholic Church (and continuing today in the Christian churches of the East), the sacraments of Christian Initiation were celebrated in the same *unchanging* order: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. In the majority of cases, all three sacraments were celebrated together, even with infants (who would be given a small drop of the Precious Blood on the tongue). Even up until the 19<sup>th</sup> century, in the vast majority of the Roman Catholic world, Confirmation was celebrated *before* an individual, whether adult or child, was invited to join the community at the Eucharist.

The Second Vatican Council, as a result of our Church's on-going efforts to remain faithful to her most sacred Traditions, called for a renewal of all our sacraments so that our practice would be more closely in line with our beliefs. Following the lead of official documents from Vatican II and other church documents published since then, more and more dioceses around the world are answering this call to renewal through the restoration of the original order to the celebration of the sacraments of Christian initiation.



*“The sharing in the divine nature given to us through the grace of Christ bears a certain likeness to the origin, development, and nourishing of natural life. The faithful are born anew by Baptism, strengthened by the sacrament of Confirmation, and received in the Eucharist the food of eternal life. By means of these sacraments of Christian initiation, they thus receive in increasing measure the treasures of the divine life and advance toward the perfection of charity” (CCC 1212).*