

Catholicism for Cradle Catholics

January 21, 2009

Baptism

1. A word on “Cradle Catholics”
2. A brief review of last week via Kreeft on sacraments in general (from *Jesus Shock* pp. 114-116– see handout)
3. The sacrament of baptism
 - a. There is too much to say!
 - b. Key references
 - i. Scripture: (a great way to pray with Scripture!)
 1. Matthew 28:16-20
 2. Mark 16:15-16
 3. John 1:12-13
 4. John 3:1-6
 5. Acts 2:37-42
 6. Acts 8:26-38
 7. Acts 9:1-19; 22:4-16;
 8. Acts 10: 1-48
 9. Acts 16:16-34
 10. Acts 18:5-8
 11. 1 Cor 6:11
 12. Titus 3:5
 13. Hebrews 10:22
 14. 1 Peter 3:21
 - ii. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*: 1213-1284
 1. Some basics stressed in *CCC*
 - a. The Lord is the One who stresses the need for baptism (Mt 28; Mk 16; John 3; CCC 1257)
 - b. “Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit, and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons of God; we become members of Christ; are incorporated into the Church and become sharers in her mission.” CCC 1213
 - i. The two primary graces are purification from sins and new birth in the Holy Spirit (CCC 1262-1274)
 - c. Baptism also makes the person to be priest, prophet and king
 - c. Key Old Testament *types* that illumine baptism:
 - i. What is a “type”? An event or person in OT that is fulfilled in the NT

1. Noah (CCC 1219-1220)
 2. Circumcision (cf. Gen 17)
 3. The Red Sea (CCC 1221)
 4. The crossing of the Jordan (CCC 1222)
- d. A most important point: never was baptism understood as it commonly is today: an act whereby a person declares he or she wishes to follow Jesus.
- e. For our reflection tonight. First, recall last week and the reality that the sacraments bring about what they signify. What does baptism signify?
- i. A homily to break open the Word of God
 - ii. Key text: Romans 6:3-13