

1. Proofs for SEVEN Sacraments:

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Christ instituted Seven Sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist, Penance, Extreme Unction, Holy Orders, and Matrimony. That the number is seven, neither more nor less, we know with exactness only from FAITH -- a faith founded on the Living Voice of the Catholic Church. We are able to support and strengthen this faith with evidence drawn from Holy Scripture and from Tradition.

A. From Holy Scripture:

From Holy Scripture we know that Christ instituted Baptism, Holy Eucharist, Penance, and Holy Orders. From the same source we learn that the Apostles administered Confirmation and Extreme Unction, and we find plainly indicated the sacramental character of Matrimony.

B. From Tradition:

In the writings of the Fathers and the Doctors of the Church, we find the Seven Sacraments clearly enumerated. The tradition of the Catholic Church, THE PILLAR AND GROUND OF TRUTH, has always taught that there are seven sacraments and has maintained this doctrine against every heretic who in the course of time has attacked any of them. On her infallible word, corroborated by Scripture and Tradition, we have full certainty that there are but Seven Sacraments, no more and no less.

2. Why There are only Seven :

If we compare the spiritual life of man's soul with the physical life of his body we shall see that Seven Sacraments are necessary. Physically, and as an individual, a man is born, grows strong, requires nourishment, and the care of a physician if he becomes ill and when he is in danger of death. As a member of a social group, man needs to be governed, and he must be replaced when he dies. These are the seven great physical needs of man as an individual and a social being. They can be compared with man's seven great spiritual needs, for each of which God has given us a Sacrament. Examine and study out these needs by means of meditation.

When we compare the Sacraments among themselves, Baptism is the most necessary, for without Baptism, at least of desire, it is impossible for any man to reach his eternal goal (three kinds of Baptism: of Blood, of Water and of Desire). For a person in mortal sin, Penance is of the next greatest importance. For the preservation of the supernatural life of the soul, Holy Eucharist is indispensable.

One can save his soul without receiving the other sacraments: Confirmation, Extreme Unction, Holy Orders and Matrimony. Each of these, however, supplies graces, some of which may be necessary for salvation.

Three of the Seven Sacraments - Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders - impart a special dignity or office to the Christian, and also a CHARACTER which forms the one receiving them in the figure of Christ, the great High Priest. This CHARACTER not only differentiates Christians from those who are not Christians, but also consecrates them as the special property of Christ. No one can belong to the Church if he does not possess the CHARACTER of Baptism. This spiritual CHARACTER retains its distinguishing value even in the world to come - and makes of hell an even greater embarrassment!!!