

Sacramental Imagination

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
All: **Amen.**

Leader: Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
All: **And kindle in them the fire of your love.**

Leader: Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created
All. **And You shall renew the face of the earth.**

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.**

Insights from the Catechism

From the Glossary:

SACRAMENT: An efficacious sign of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us through the work of the Holy Spirit (1131, 774). The sacraments (called “mysteries” in the Eastern Churches) are seven in number: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Penance or Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders and Matrimony (1210).

SACRAMENTALS: Sacred signs which bear certain resemblance to the sacraments, and by means of which spiritual effects are signified and obtained through the prayers of the Church (1667)

774 The Greek word *mysterion* was translated into Latin by two terms: *mysterium* and *sacramentum*. In later usage the term *sacramentum* emphasized the visible sign of the hidden reality of salvation which was indicated by the term *mysterium*. In this sense, Christ himself is the mystery of salvation: “For there is no other mystery of God, except Christ.”

Questions to reflect on in small groups: (There are no wrong answers)

- 1) Share a memory of receiving a sacrament. This could be this past Sunday or the first time you received a sacrament. How old were you? What did it feel like to receive the sacrament before and after?
- 2) Where do you see the face of Jesus/God’s masterpiece in the world?
- 3) Share a time you felt “blind” to something and with the help of God (directly, through another person or situation) your eyes and heart were open to seeing in a new way.

“Love them anyway”

The verses below reportedly were written on the wall of *Mother Teresa's* home for children in *Calcutta, India*, and are widely attributed to her. They seem to be based on a composition originally by *Kent Keith*, but much of the second half has been re-written in a more spiritual way.

People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centered. **Forgive them anyway.**

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. **Be kind anyway.**

If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies. **Succeed anyway.**

If you are honest and sincere people may deceive you. **Be honest and sincere anyway.**

What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight. **Create anyway.**

If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous. **Be happy anyway.**

The good you do today, will often be forgotten. **Do good anyway.**

Give the best you have, and it will never be enough. **Give your best anyway.**

In the final analysis, it is between you and God. **It was never between you and them anyway.**