



Receiving Sacraments "Out of Order"

Reflections on the Original Order #1

Diocese of Honolulu

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Did you know that children baptized as infants usually receive the sacraments out of sequence, out of order? To be fully initiated as Christians, as followers of Jesus Christ, we receive three sacraments, namely Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation. When Confirmation comes last, perhaps even years after First Communion, we can get the impression that Confirmation is the “final” sacrament, that Confirmation is what brings us fully into the Body of Christ.

This is not true. Our faith tells us that Eucharist, not Confirmation, is the source and summit of our faith. Our faith tells us that First Communion is what completes our initiation into the life of Christ.

In 1971, Blessed Pope Paul VI issued the revised Rite of Confirmation saying, “The faithful are born anew by Baptism, strengthened by the sacrament of Confirmation, and finally are sustained by the food of eternal life in the Eucharist..... the faithful, after being signed by holy Baptism and Confirmation, are incorporated fully into the body of Christ by participation in the Eucharist” (Apostolic Constitution, “Divinae Consortium Naturae,” 1971).

Over the coming weeks, we’ll more fully explore these three sacraments as well as the upcoming changes our diocese is making to establish the original order of the three sacraments of initiation.

Sunday, October 22, 2017