

Plugged In

Lesson 5

Unit Four

Milestone Moments and More...The Sacraments of Initiation

Here I Am, Lord

Lord, you called us to holiness and enlightenment in our baptism. We pray you continue to make us worthy of your precious grace. At our baptism, you lifted away the old garment of sin and renewed us to live a life in Christ. Fill us with the power of the Holy Spirit so that we may grow in your glory to the end of our days, amen.

Adapted from the priest's prayer of baptism



Our World of Signs and Symbols

Every day we rely on signs to make our life easier.



- Signs give direction and explanation. Because signs provide practical information and make things work effectively they are used for functional and organizational purposes. In order to be effective a sign must be immediately recognizable.
- Symbols on the other hand are considered the language of the soul, especially in the life of the church. Symbols by-pass the mind to disclose a deeper meaning. Symbols also reveal or create relationships. Our church life is filled with symbols that do not simply “express” meaning, but might also “create” new thoughts, beliefs, feelings.
- In human life, signs and symbols occupy an important place. As human beings, we possess both body and spirit and because of our two inseparable natures we express and recognize spiritual truths through physical signs and symbols. As social beings, people need signs and symbols to communicate with others, through language, gestures, and actions. The same holds true for our relationship with God.
- Symbols can transform us. The church is full of signs and symbols. Sacraments, in particular, make use of symbolic items (rings, crowns) and gestures (drinking from the same cup, being immersed in water three times).