The Three Sacraments of Initiation

Jesus has given us three sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist. These three sacraments are closely connected. They each give us the graces we need to live holy lives. They give us the graces we need to live as holy disciples of Christ.

We first receive the Holy Spirit in Baptism. This is when our life of grace begins to work in us.
- It is kind of like drawing a picture. Imagine you are drawing a picture with a pencil. You are just beginning to create something beautiful. Now imagine that you have a big box of crayons to color that picture! Coloring the picture makes it complete, doesn't it? It is even more beautiful and perfect.

The Holy Spirit perfects the graces we received at our Baptism when we receive Confirmation. Just as coloring a picture makes it more perfect, it is kind of the same with Confirmation. When we are baptized, we become new creations. But when we are confirmed, the Holy Spirit "completes the grace of Baptism" (*CCC*, glossary). In Confirmation, the Holy Spirit does the following:
- *Deepens* our relationship with God, our Father
- Unites us *more firmly* with Christ
- Strengthens our relationship with the Church
- Unites us more closely with the Church's mission to spread the Gospel to the world
- Gives us courage to share our faith with others

At First Holy Communion, we receive the Eucharist for the first time. With these three sacraments, we become full members of God's family, the Church. These sacraments give us the grace and virtues we need to live holy lives.

Catholics around the world receive the sacraments of initiation at different times. Some receive Confirmation before First Holy Communion. Others receive Confirmation later. In the Eastern Catholic churches, people receive all three sacraments of initiation at the same time!

Why is it important for you to be a member of God's Church? Write your answer on the journal page. Journal pages are available on the parent and student portals.