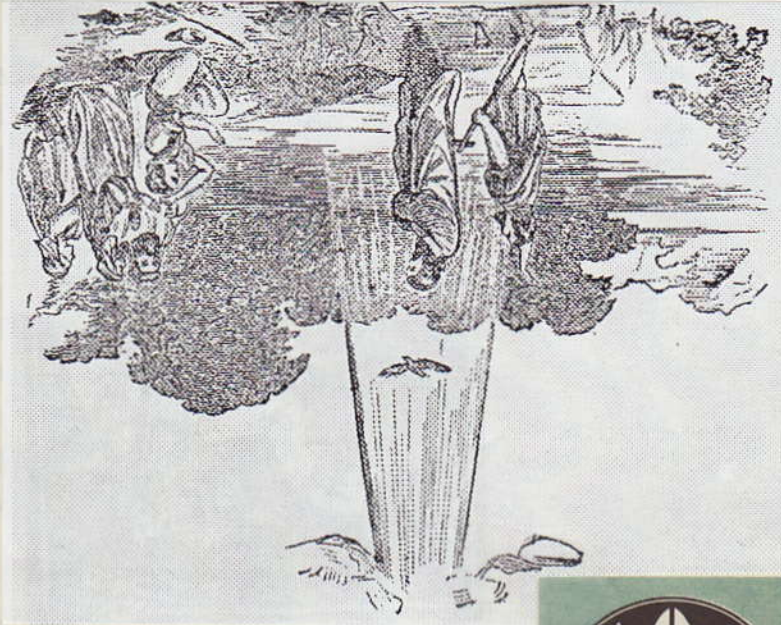


Sacraments of the Church





Mark 1:8

“I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

”

SESSION 1

SACRAMENTS OF THE CHURCH

Baptism: Believing in God



words to remember

We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

Holy Baptism
The Book of Common Prayer, p. 308

prayer Almighty God, by our baptism into the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, you turn us from the old life of sin: Grant that we, being born to new life in him, may live in righteousness and holiness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

At Baptism
The Book of Common Prayer, p. 254

COMMENTARY

The **Baptismal Covenant** is somewhat like a promise—a big important promise. When you say this you are telling God that, yes, I promise to believe in God; yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, and I know he'll rise and judge the living and the dead. You'll also say this when you get confirmed.

In the service, you see a person take a little shell and dump water on your head while another sticks a finger in some oil and imprints the cross on your forehead. That's the part where you say, "Yes!" After a while the feeling goes away, but it comes back after you have learned that God loves you as much as anyone could.

Teenagers should think of baptism as an honor—another step to being closer to God. You see all these people around you giving answers for you, and you can't do a thing. But you put your trust in them knowing that it must be good.

Mike, Grade 8

Youth prayer

Being an
Adopted
Person
To God.

In God's eyes, God
Sees the good in my heart.
May God bless my soul.
All the days of my life I shall
Let God's love shine on my heart
and give me peace. Amen.

Mike, Grade 8

DAILY DEVOTIONS

reflections

Monday—Acts 2:37-42

Tuesday—Matthew 3:13-15

Wednesday—Matthew 3:16-17

Thursday—Luke 3:16-17

Friday—Luke 3:21-22

Saturday—John 1:29-34

voices

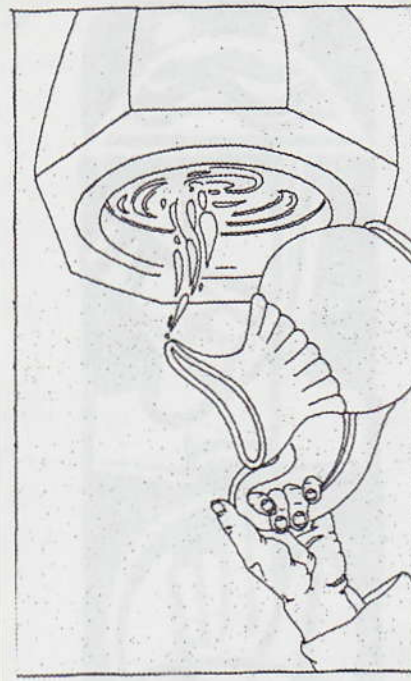
It is baptism itself that I am talking about. . . It is the gift that matters. It is death and life.

Madeleine L'Engle

Someone is being baptized into your own life and death, Lord. Someone is being made a member of the church, your own body. Don't let this baptism be shunted off into a small corner of a big church, or into a quiet hour with a handful of people. Let this baptism be a principal part of the whole church's life, Jesus. Make us all realize that we are profoundly involved in it because someone is being ordained to a lifetime of discipleship and ministry in your spirit and name.

Malcolm Boyd

Bobbi Tull



SESSION 2
SACRAMENTS OF THE CHURCH

Baptism: Living in Christ

James 1:22

But be doers of the word,
and not merely hearers,
who deceive themselves.

B

words to remember

But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They replied, "We are able." Then Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized."

Mark 10:38-39

prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon these your servants the forgiveness of sin, and have raised them to the new life of grace. Sustain them, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give them an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works.
Amen.

At Baptism
The Book of Common Prayer, p. 308

COMMENTARY

Baptism is a commitment to a life of striving for the truth of God and faith. The way this commitment is approached varies according to the age of the candidate. When adults and older children are presented for baptism, they must state their desire to be baptized. Desire is the important concept in this situation; desire will lead to a journey to develop a relationship with God and Jesus.

When young children are baptized, the presentation differs drastically. The parents and godparents agree to bring the child up in the Christian faith and life. These adults speak "on behalf of the infants and younger children."

The baptismal covenant portrays the idea that if a person is baptized, this person believes fully in God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. In this way, the water poured on a child's forehead would immediately give the gift of faith to them.

To me baptism is a gift of faith from God.

Elizabeth, Grade 9

Youth prayer

Dear God,

Help us to begin our quest for a stronger belief in you through baptism. We pray for the ability to remain faithful in this quest when we become frustrated and feel that you are not with us. Help us to become closer to you through this journey that begins with baptism. Amen.

Elizabeth, Grade 9

DAILY DEVOTIONS

reflections

Monday—Acts 10:44-48

Tuesday—Galations 3:27-28

Wednesday—Acts 1:4-5

Thursday—Acts 16:11-15

Friday—Romans 6:1-5

Saturday—Acts 8:12-13

voices

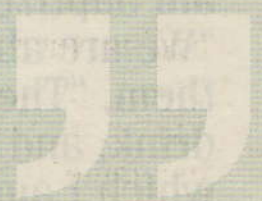


O Lord, baptize our hearts into a sense of the conditions and needs of all.

George Fox (adapted)

Incline us, O God! to think humbly of ourselves, to be saved only in the examination of our own conduct, to consider our fellow creatures with kindness, and to judge of all they say and do with the charity which we would desire from them ourselves.

Jane Austen



Hermano León Clipart

1 Corinthians 11:26

or as often as you eat this
bread and drink the cup, you
proclaim the Lord's death
until he comes.

F



SESSION 3

SACRAMENTS OF THE CHURCH

Eucharist: Jesus Comes



words to remember

Lord God of our Fathers [and Mothers]; God of Abraham [and Sarah], Isaac [and Rebekah], and Jacob [Leah and Rachel]; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

The Book of Common Prayer, p. 372

prayer

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Book of Common Prayer, p. 366

COMMENTARY

Kneeling at the Lord's altar,
The sensation of his presence,
Becoming stronger and stronger.

It is at this moment in time,
When all else is oblivious,
That he is near.

Be ready and alert,
Take advantage of these precious moments
For they are few.

Ask for forgiveness of your sins,
Pray for others, and ask for his advice.
It is now when you are closest to God.

John, Grade 9

Youth prayer

Dear Lord,
Help us to feel your presence while at your altar.
Strengthen us spiritually, and help us to be the kind
of people you want us to be. Help us to feel your
presence not only at your table, but also at school,
at home, and at play.
Thank you for all your gifts, O Lord. Amen.

John, Grade 9

DAILY DEVOTIONS

reflections

Monday—Jeremiah 31:31-33
Tuesday—Matthew 26:26-28
Wednesday—Matthew 26: 29

Thursday—Luke 22:14-16
Friday—Luke 22:17-20
Saturday—I Corinthians
11:27-28

voices



Were you there when they crucified
my Lord?

Were you there?

O sometimes it causes me to trem-
ble, tremble, tremble,

Were you there when they
crucified my Lord?

Negro spiritual

O great God, who art thou? Where
art thou? Show thyself to me.

Venkayya,

first outcast convert in South India;
prayer offered every day for three years

I cannot grasp You

explain You

describe You

Only cast myself into the depths
of your mystery

Only let your love pierce the
cloud of my unknowing.

George Appleton



—John 6:35a

Jesus said to them,
"I am the bread of life."

J

SESSION 4

SACRAMENTS OF THE CHURCH



Eucharist: Bread of Life

words to remember

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us.

By his wounds, we are healed.

The Book of Common Prayer, p. 370

prayer

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

After Communion

The Book of Common Prayer, p. 365

COMMENTARY

"Take, eat. This is my body. . . This is my blood. . .
Do this in remembrance of me."

Jesus lived his life to teach us love, and when we killed him, many people thought we had killed his soul and his spirit. Those are things that we can't touch, hurt, or kill. Jesus left his spirit behind, and we as a people are the only ones that can make it come alive.

The sacraments, meaning holy ceremony, are one way that we address the Holy Spirit. We want to understand the Last Supper and know that when Jesus said those words, he was making a promise in which people could remember him and love him.

Today, communion is a big part of the Christian connection to relating to God. Jesus lives in those two symbols. When you take communion, you feel as if you are preserving God in yourself, and bringing his presence to your heart.

"Finally, though, the minister would admit, even glory in the fact, that things didn't add up, that the reality was incomprehensible, and furthermore the failure of our understandings was the greatest proof of all, not of goodness or omniscience or whatever the subject of the day was, but of power. And talk of power made Dr. Fremont's [the minister] voice deepen and his gestures widen and his eyes light up."—*A Thousand Acres*, Jane Smiley

Natasha, Grade 8

Youth prayer

Your blood is in my cup,
Your body in my hand,
Your strength in my heart,
And your spirit in my soul.
Take this in remembrance
for Jesus has been crucified.
Let his light shine on you
and his presence be within you
while you weep as you touch his body
and feel his blood.

Natasha, Grade 8

DAILY DEVOTIONS

reflections

Monday—Psalm 34

Tuesday—Psalm 116:12-15

Wednesday—I Corinthians
10:1-4

Thursday—Revelation

19:1-2a, 4-9

Friday—I Corinthians 10:16-17

Saturday—I Corinthians 11:23-29

voices



The great mystery of the Eucharist is that God's love is offered to us not in the abstract, but in a wholly concrete form; not as an example or a theory, but as good for our daily life. The Eucharist opens the way for us to make God's love our own."

Henri J.M. Nouwen

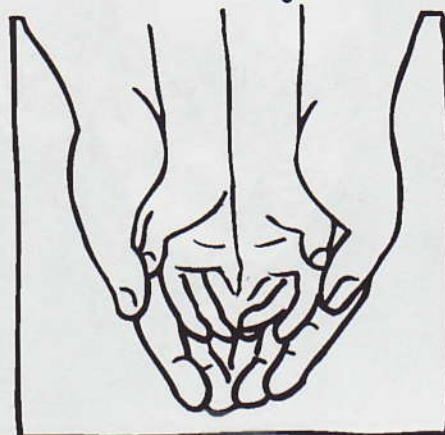
It becomes a delightful gift expressing the mysterious Giver's love. And it becomes a natural opportunity for sharing that love.

Tilden Edwards



Communications Resources
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FORGIVENESS



Most merciful God, we confess
that we have sinned again you
in thought, word, and deed, . . .
The Book of Common Prayer, p. 360.

M

SESSION 5

SACRAMENTS OF THE CHURCH

Reconciliation: God's Forgiveness



words to remember

The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
He will not always accuse,
nor will he keep his anger forever.
He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.
For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him,
as far as the east is from the west,
so far he removes our transgressions from us.
As a father has compassion for his children,
so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him;
But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to
everlasting
on those who fear him,
and his righteousness to children's children,
to those who keep his covenant
and remember to do his commandments.

Psalms 103: 8-13; 17-18

prayer

Direct us, O Lord, in all our
doings with your most gracious
favor, and further us with your
continual help; that in all our
works begun, continued, and
ended in you, we may glorify
your holy Name, and finally by
your mercy, obtain everlasting
life, through Jesus Christ our
Lord, *Amen.*

For Guidance
The Book of Common Prayer, p. 832.

COMMENTARY

I lie upon my stone cold bed.

I stare at the pitch black night
I'm trapped here in this self-made hell
With no escape in sight

I lie knee deep in regrets
Sorry for the thing I have and haven't done
I want to apologize to the world
The world I hated, the world I shunned

I know I hurt many people
I know I stung their souls
And in return they've given me hate
Hate that filled my soul full of holes

Now I want to end this war
And have this weight taken off my shoulders
I stare coldly at the moon
It just stares back colder

I open the window in my room
And stick my head out into the unforgiving night
"Sorry" I say to whoever is listening
I can only hope this ends the fight

Andrew, Grade 9

Youth prayer

O Lord, help me from my state
Lead me away from my own cold night
Lead me away from hate
I have done many great injustices
And I repent for my sins
So help me rid myself of this guilt
Make me be righteous again
I've carried this burden for an eternity
I've trapped myself in a world of hate
Lord, release me from this burden
Lord, let me be free again.

Andrew, Grade 9

DAILY DEVOTIONS

reflections

Monday—Matthew 11:28-30
Tuesday—John 3:16
Wednesday—1 Timothy 1:15

Thursday—1 John 2:1-2
Friday—Psalm 62:1-2
Saturday—Psalm 46:1-3

voices



O Thou great Chief, light a candle in my heart, that I may see what is therein, and sweep the rubbish from thy dwelling place.

An African schoolgirl's prayer

I have just hung up; why did he telephone?

I don't know. . . Oh! I get it. . .

I talked a lot and listened very little.

Forgive me, Lord, it was a monologue and not a dialogue.

I explained my idea and did not get his;

Since I didn't listen, I learned nothing,

Since I didn't listen, I didn't help,
Since I didn't listen, we didn't communicate.

Forgive me, Lord, for we were connected,
and now we are cut off.

Michael Quoist

Human beings are not perfectible.
They are improvable.

Eric Sevaried



Communications Resources
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James 5:14

Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord.



SESSION 6

SACRAMENTS OF THE CHURCH

Healing: Anointing the Sick



words to remember

prayer

O Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger,
or discipline me in your wrath.
Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am languishing;
O Lord, heal me, for my bones are
shaking with terror.
My soul also is struck with terror,
while you, O Lord—how long?
Turn, O Lord, save my life;
deliver me for the sake of your steadfast love.
Depart from me, all you workers of evil,
for the Lord has heard the sound
of my weeping.
The Lord has heard my supplication;
the Lord accepts my prayer.

May God the Father bless you,
God the Son heal you, God the
Holy Spirit give you strength.
May God the holy and undivided
Trinity guard your body, save
your soul, and bring you safely
to his heavenly country; where
he lives and reigns for ever and
ever. *Amen.*

The Book of Common Prayer, p. 460

Psalm 6, Verses 1-4, 8-9

COMMENTARY

When I think of healing, I think of the car accident my father had about three years ago. He was seriously injured. God helped him to heal by bringing family, friends and even strangers into his life. The people around him gave him the strength he needed to start the healing process. Healing does not happen over a short period of time. Sometimes healing can take a lifetime.

After God punished the people by flooding the earth and killing everyone except Noah and his family, he started a new covenant with people. God has shown us that relationships can always be healed. Like when the Berlin wall was erected between East and West Germany after World War II. God helped the two sides heal their relationship. Although it took a while, the wall was finally torn down by the people of Germany.

Even I have had healing. When I wasn't doing well in school, God helped heal me by giving me help and support from my family and friends. In my life and in everyone's lives, if you look hard you can always find some kind of healing done by God.

Jonathan, Grade 8

Youth prayer

Almighty God, you who have blessed us with your power to heal. Allow us to receive spiritual rebirth through yourself and all your saints. God, heal our unhappy relations in our lives and in the lives of others. Let the nations of the world work in cooperation and in peace. Give us the strength we need to go through the healing process and to live in full accordance of your will. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Jonathan, Grade 8

DAILY DEVOTIONS

reflections

Monday—Psalm 103:2-3

Tuesday—Job 5:18

Wednesday—Psalm 147:3-4

Thursday—Jeremiah 17:14

Friday—Psalm 30:2

Saturday—Matthew 12:10

voices



I don't want to start

Any blasphemous rumours

But I think that God's

Got a sick sense of humour

And when I die

I expect to find Him laughing

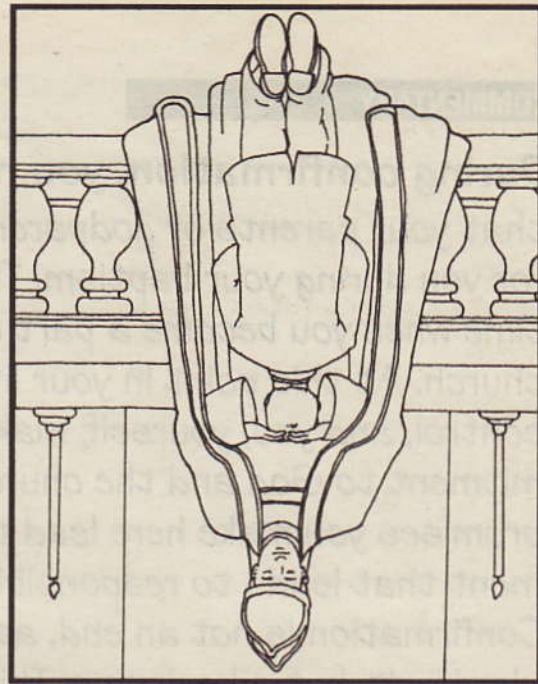
"Blasphemous Rumors" from the album Catching up with Depeche Mode, Sire Records

All shall be well and all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well.

Julian of Norwich



Laying on of Hands, Bobbi Tull



Ephesians 4:15

But speaking the truth in love,
we must grow up in every way,
into him who is the head,
into Christ, . . .

B

SESSION 7

SACRAMENTS OF THE CHURCH

Confirmation: Renewing Promises



words to remember

But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Jeremiah 31:33-34

prayer Almighty and everliving God, let your fatherly hand ever be over these your servants; let your Holy Spirit ever be with them; and so lead them in the knowledge and obedience of your Word, that they may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Reaffirmation
The Book of Common Prayer, p. 419

COMMENTARY

During confirmation, you renew vows that your parents or godparents made for you during your baptism. This is the time when you become a part of the church. At this point in your life, you take control, and you, yourself, make the commitment to God and the church. The promises you make here lead to commitment that leads to responsibility. Confirmation is not an end, as some people view it, but a beginning. This is the beginning of your life as a Christian.

John, Grade 9

voices



So I end where I began
and once again I start
to learn that my disgrace
is ripped, is torn apart,
and mended by your grace.

Madeleine L'Engle

Faith is believing what you
know ain't so.

Mark Twain

The best knowledge that we
have of God here, even by
faith, is rather that he knows
us, than that we know him.

John Donne

Youth prayer

Dear Lord,
Please help us to make the right decision to join the Church. Reassure us that the decision we are making is the right one. Forgive us for our doubts and unwillingness to accept the responsibilities of being a Christian. Help us to understand what your love does for us.

John, Grade 9

DAILY DEVOTIONS

reflections

- Monday—Hebrews 9:1
- Tuesday—Genesis 9:16-17
- Wednesday—Exodus 34:27-28
- Thursday—Joshua 24:14-15
- Friday—Luke 1:68-72
- Saturday—Romans 11:26-27



Communications Resources
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Mark 10:6-7

But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife;

B

Marriage



SESSION 8

SACRAMENTS OF THE CHURCH

Marriage: Promises to Keep



words to remember

You made Adam, and for him you made his wife Eve as a helper and support.

From the two of them the human race has sprung.

You said, "It is not good that the man should be alone;

let us make a helper for him like himself."

I now am taking this kinswoman of mine, not because of lust, but with sincerity.

Grant that she and I may find mercy and that we may grow old together.

Tobit 8:6-7

prayer God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you; the Lord mercifully with his favor look upon you, and fill you with all spiritual benediction and grace; that you may faithfully live together in this life, and in the age to come have life everlasting. *Amen.*

The Blessing of the Marriage
The Book of Common Prayer, p. 431

COMMENTARY

Marriage, to me, is a very special place that people enter who truly love each other and want to live their lives together. It's the joining of two people together to serve each other and serve God. Marriage is the unification of two souls, two halves, into a whole.

When people get married, especially in religious places, it's like they're saying, "Hey God! Look at us! We care for each other and you so deeply that we want to come together to explore our relationship with you and each other for as long as we are on earth!"

At my age, young people are only beginning to forge relationships with people of the opposite sex. We are just learning how to have productive friendships with those who are different from ourselves. It can be a confusing and frustrating time. Teenagers are at the start of the quest to find the other person who will enrich their lives in every way and in turn strengthen their belief in God.

When two people join as one in marriage, they are in a sense, adding a third person to a relationship they already have: their relationship with God. They have chosen the one other person in the world they want to share this relationship with.
Kate, Grade 9

Youth prayer

Most wonderful God,
Thank you for creating an institution into which countless couples have entered into. Marriage can be a flame that burns bright even when all the other lights in the world have been dimmed. We thank you for your undying love and belief in us that allows us to go out into the world and unite with one other person who will strengthen our love for you by seeing you through their eyes. Amen.

Kate, Grade 9

DAILY DEVOTIONS

reflections

- Monday—Genesis 1:26-28
- Tuesday—Song of Solomon 2:10-11
- Wednesday—John 15:9-12

- Thursday—Psalm 67:1-2
- Friday—Tobit 10:12
- Saturday—Song of Solomon 8:6-7

voices



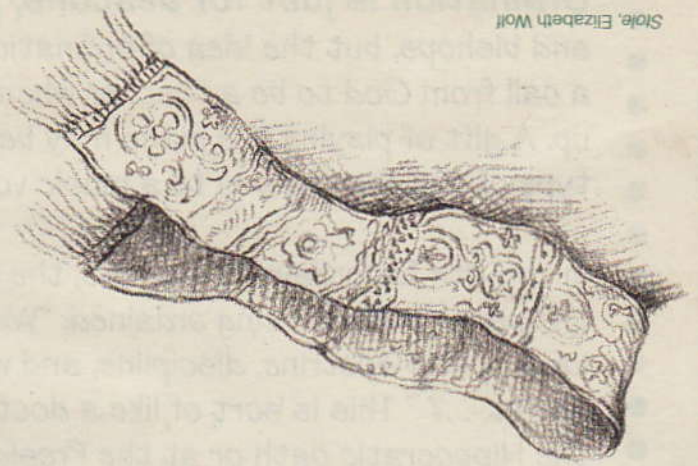
Love is an act of faith, and whoever is of little faith is also of little love
Erich Fromm

"Do you think you will be able to give my daughter what she wants?" a man asked a suitor.
"I certainly do, sir, she says that all she wants is me."
Anthony deMello

A good relationship has a pattern like a dance and is built on some of the same rules.
Anne Morrow Lindbergh

There is no more lovely, friendly and charming relationship, communion or company than a good marriage.
Martin Luther





Ephesians 4:11

he gifts he gave were that some
would be apostles, some
prophets, some evangelists, some
pastors and teachers . . .



SESSION 9

SACRAMENTS OF THE CHURCH

Ordination: God's Call



words to remember

But now thus says the Lord,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name,
you are mine.

Isaiah 43:1

prayer Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers, which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

For all Christians in their vocation
The Book of Common Prayer, p. 256

COMMENTARY

Ordination is just for deacons, priests, and bishops, but the idea of ordination could be a call from God to be a teacher when you grow up. A gift of playing the piano may be another type of call, leading you to a music vocation.

In the rite for ordaining a priest, the bishop asks the person who is being ordained, "Will you be loyal to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of Christ. . .?" This is sort of like a doctor taking the Hippocratic oath or at the President's inauguration when they promise to "preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States of America."

Everyone is ordained in one way or another. Some may discover soon in their lives, while for others it might take a while.

Amanda, Grade 9

Youth prayer

Dear God, you call priests to be ordained in your name. Help us to discover how you call each and every one of us. Give us a chance to hear that call and respond to it. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Amanda, Grade 9

DAILY DEVOTIONS

reflections

Monday—I Timothy 3:1-3

Tuesday—Isaiah 42:1

Wednesday—Philippians 4:4-6

Thursday—Jeremiah 1:4-7

Friday—Ecclesiasticus (Sirach) 39:7-8

Saturday—Acts 6:3

voices



The things, good Lord, that we pray for, Give us grace to work for, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Thomas More

Holy Spirit think through me till your ideas are my ideas.

Amy Carmichael (Anglican missionary)

God give me work Till my life shall end, And life Till my work is done.

Winifred Holtby

