

Sacraments of the Church **Poster #1 The Last Supper**

Sessions 3,4

Mafa

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Sacraments of the Church **Poster #2 Scream**



# No Trespassing!

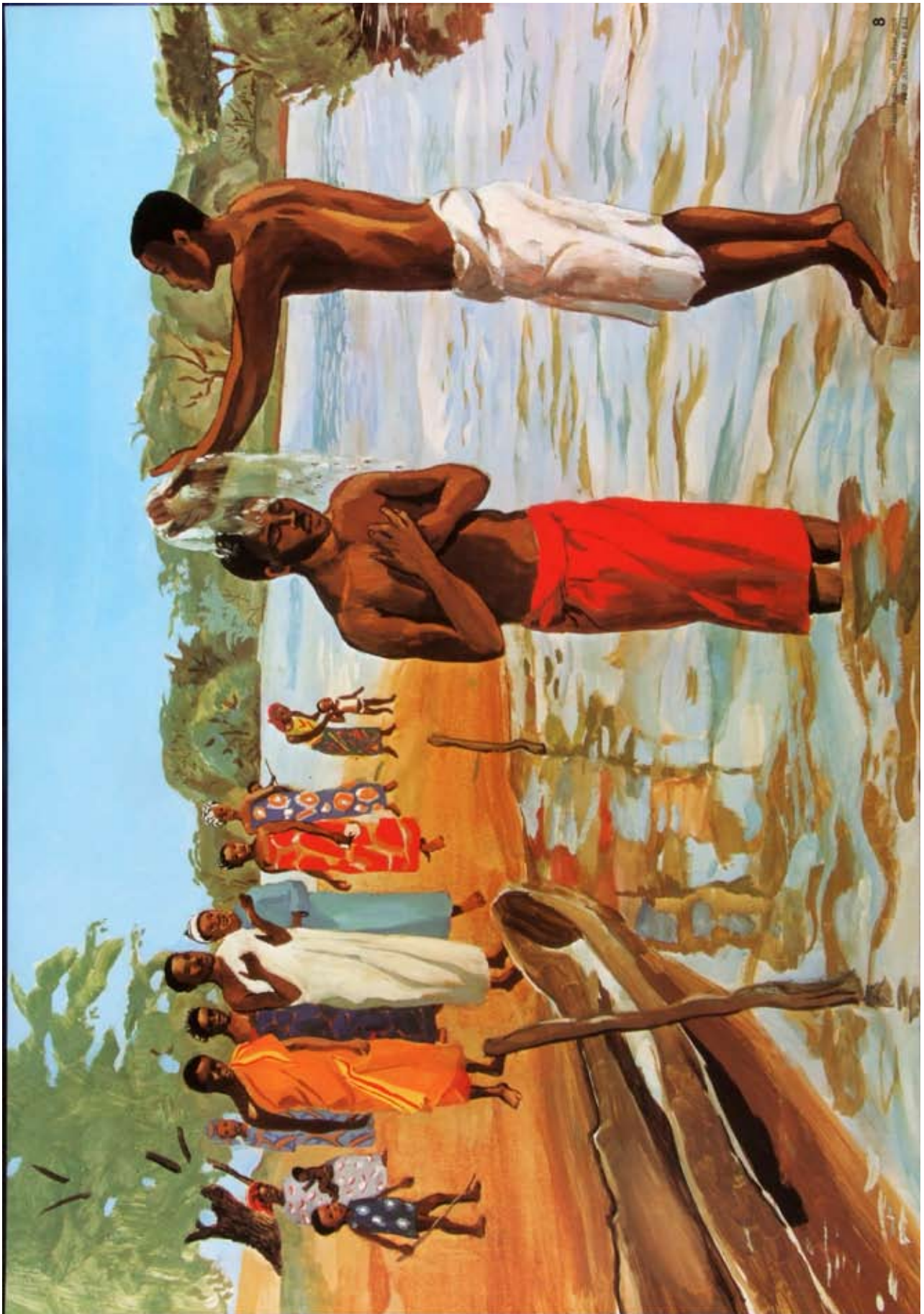
*"Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive  
those who trespass against us."*



Sacraments of the Church Poster #4 Symbol Composite

Sessions 5-9

Elizabeth Wolf



Sacraments of the Church **Poster #5 John Baptizes Jesus**

Sessions 1,2

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# SACRAMENTS

## OUTWARD AND VISIBLE SIGNS OF INWARD AND SPIRITUAL GRACE

Sacrament or Rite	Symbol	Words	Grace Conferred	Ordinary Minister
<b>Baptism</b>	Water	“I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. <i>Amen.</i> ”	Birth into God’s family; new life in the Holy Spirit; union with Christ in His death and resurrection; forgiveness.	Bishop or priest
<b>Eucharist</b>	Bread and Wine	Recounting of the Last Supper, invocation of the Holy Spirit on the gifts and the people, offering of the gifts, and recalling saving acts	Forgiveness of sins; strengthening of union with Jesus and one another	Bishop or priest
<b>Ordination</b>	Laying on of hands	Prayer asking for the grace of the Holy Spirit	An inquiring and discerning hear; the spirit to know and love God; joy and wonder in God’s works; strength to live the mature Christian life	Bishop
<b>Confirmation</b>	Laying on of hands	Invocation of the Holy Spirit on the candidate as bishop, priest or deacon	Authority to exercise the appropriate ministry	Bishop
<b>Matrimony</b>	Joining hands of bride and groom	“I take you to be my wife/husband...”	Help in living together as Christians	Bride and groom
<b>Reconciliation of a Penitent</b>	Varies: hand on or over penitent; signing of the cross	Confession with contrition by the penitent; absolution by the confessor	Absolution and assurance of pardon	Bishop or priest
<b>Ministration to the Sick</b>	Laying on of hands, Anointing with oil	“I anoint you with the oil in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit;” “I lay my hands upon you in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ...”	Healing of spirit, mind and body	Bishop or priest

# Shared Characteristics of the Sacraments



Communicating symbol



Necessary form of words



Grace or benefit that is conferred



Ordinary minister

**T**here was a famous monastery which had fallen on very hard times. Formerly, its many buildings were filled with young monks and its big church resounded with the singing of the chant, but now it was deserted. People no longer came there to be nourished by prayer. A handful of old monks shuffled through the cloisters and praised their God with heavy hearts.

On the edge of the monastery woods, an old rabbi had built a little hut. He would come there from time to time to fast and pray. No one ever spoke with him, but whenever he appeared, the word would be passed from monk to monk: "The rabbi walks in the woods." And, for as long as he was there, the monks would feel sustained by his prayerful presence.

One day the abbot decided to visit the rabbi and to open his heart to him. So, after the morning Eucharist, he set out through the woods. As he approached the hut, the abbot saw the rabbi standing in the doorway, his arms outstretched in welcome. It was as though he had been waiting there for some time. The two embraced like long-lost brothers. Then they stepped back and just stood there, smiling at one another with smiles their faces could hardly contain.

After a while the rabbi motioned the abbot to enter. In the middle of the room was a wooden table with the Scriptures open on it. They sat there for a moment, in the presence of the Book. Then the rabbi began to cry. The abbot could not contain himself. He covered his face with his hands and began to cry too. For the first time in his life, he cried his heart out. The two men sat there like lost children, filling the hut with their sobs and wetting the wood of the table with their tears.

After the tears had ceased to flow and all was quiet again, the rabbi lifted his head. "You and your brothers are serving God with heavy hearts," he said. "You have come to ask a teaching of me. I will give you a teaching, but you can only repeat it once. After that, no one must ever say it aloud again."

The rabbi looked straight at the abbot and said, "The Messiah is among you." For a while, all was silent. Then the rabbi said, "Now you must go."

The abbot left without a word and without ever looking back.

The next morning, the abbot called his monks together in the chapter room. He told them he had received a teaching from "the rabbi who walks in the woods" and that this teaching was never again to be spoken aloud. Then he looked at each of his brothers and said, "The rabbi said that one of us is the Messiah."

The monks were startled by this saying. "What could it mean?" they asked themselves. "Is Brother John the Messiah? Or Father Matthew? Or Brother Thomas? Am I the Messiah? What could this mean?"

They were all deeply puzzled by the rabbi's teaching. But no one ever mentioned it again.

As time went by, the monks began to treat one another with a very special reverence. There was a gentle, wholehearted, human quality about them now which was hard to describe but easy to notice. They lived with one another as men who had finally found something. But they prayed the Scriptures together as men who were always looking for something. Occasional visitors found themselves deeply moved by the life of these monks. Before long, people were coming from far and wide to be nourished by the prayer life of the monks and young men were asking, once again, to become part of the community.

In those days, the rabbi no longer walked in the woods. His hut had fallen into ruins. But somehow or other, the old monks who had taken his teaching to heart still felt sustained by his prayerful presence.

(From *New Catholic World* 222 [March-April 1979]: 53.)