



Maryvale Institute

Helping those who are returning to the practice of the Faith

In order to be able to talk about the necessity of coming to the Sacrament Reconciliation for healing and forgiveness, we need to personally reflect on the following:

Recovery of Baptismal Life

Baptismal Life

- † Immersion into the death and resurrection of Christ
- † The outcome of this is that the baptised person becomes a new creation in Christ
- † It is a dual effect:
 - Putting to death the fallen nature (one which is indifferent or hostile to God)
 - The raising of a new life in the Spirit

Sharing in the life of the Trinity

The principal reality of baptismal life is an interior sharing in the life of the Trinity which is manifested by

- † a sense of the love of the Father and His providence; the call to holiness; a filial identity & a final destiny
- † Empowerment by the Holy Spirit to worship God; to live out our state in life; to avoid sin and to do good
- † Union with Christ – sharing in his filial relationship with the Father; taking on the likeness of Christ; sharing in his mission in the world



This reality is the *fruit*, not only of Baptism, but also of personal conversion as a response to the proclamation of the Gospel message

Reasons why the Baptismal life might be lost or damaged

Perhaps the principal reason for losing this life is the lack of interior conversion to Christ. *Lumen Gentium* (the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church) states that there are 3 elements to the baptismal life

1. we receive it at Baptism
2. we take hold of it
3. we bring it to perfection

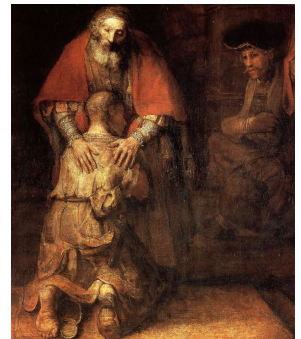
A second reason is

- that the world we live in is a secular society that does not support or promote the life of grace
- relativism has robbed us of the sense of Truth and reduced it to personal preference
- moral confusion

We should not fail to mention hurts within the Church.

Essence of the Sacrament of Reconciliation

- † Examination of conscience
 - Acknowledging that sin has produced a division –from God and from others
 - Contrition (sign of Conversion) & Confession
 - Rejection of the sin & resolution not to commit it again
 - Confession - revealing oneself before God & the Church
- † Absolution – contact with divine power & mercy
 - Death of sin & raising to new life in Christ
- † Satisfaction (or Penance)
 - Being joined to the saving Passion of Christ
 - A sign of the renewal of commitment to God
 - A means of healing the wound of sin



Restored to life in the Church

The whole Church welcomes the returning son or daughter. We understand that the Church had also been damaged by the penitent's sin (individual and ecclesial are complementary aspects of the Sacrament)

The final fruit of the sacrament is the free access to the Eucharist and to the graces available in the Church to assist with every aspect of our lives.



Practical Application

Being confident in reaching out to non Churchgoing Catholics

- † Know the Kerygma (the Gospel message of salvation in Jesus Christ)
- † Recognise that we may not know it ourselves
- † Seek personal formation - courses at Maryvale Institute help to deepen our confidence in reaching out to others