

A Catholic Community in Keaukaha for 75 Years

Malia Puka O Kalani

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Original Order of the Sacraments of Initiation

Did you know that children baptized as infants usually receive the sacraments out of sequence, out of order? To be fully initiated as Christians, as followers of Jesus Christ, we receive three sacraments, namely Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation. When Confirmation comes last, perhaps even years after First Communion, we can get the impression that Confirmation is the "final" sacrament, that Confirmation is what brings us fully into the Body of Christ.

This is not true. Our faith tells us that Eucharist, not Confirmation, is the source and summit of our faith. Our faith tells us that First Communion is what completes our initiation into the life of Christ.

In 1971, Blessed Pope Paul VI issued the revised Rite of Confirmation saying "The faithful are born anew by Baptism, strengthened by the sacrament of Confirmation, and finally are sustained by the food of eternal life in the Eucharist. the faithful, after being signed by holy Baptism and Confirmation, are incorporated fully into the body of Christ by participation in the Eucharist" (Apostolic Constitution, "Divinae Consortium Naturae," 1971).

In these pages, we'll more fully explore these three sacraments as well as the upcoming changes our diocese is making to establish the original order of the three sacraments of initiation.

"The (three) sacraments of Christian initiation lay the foundations of every Christian life" Catechism of the Catholic Church, no.1212. The initiation sacraments can be compared to climbing up Diamond Head Crater. To do the climb, one needs to be prepared when starting out, especially by being hydrated. After this, the hiker asks for the strength to climb up the 3/4-mile path. Finally, on reaching the summit, the magnificent view in every direction can be enjoyed.

This corresponds to the sacraments of initiation. The hydration of Baptism starts a Christian on the path. The gift of the Holy Spirit received in Confirmation gives the strength needed to make the journey. Then finally, earth is joined to heaven at the summit when one receives first Holy Communion.

Notice that what completes our membership into the Body of Christ is not Confirmation. Rather, it is receiving First Communion. The truth is that the first two sacraments (Baptism and Confirmation) are what prepare us for Eucharist. From our own experience we know that Eucharist does not prepare us for Confirmation. It is the other way around.

The sacraments that initiate us into the Christian life are first of all Baptism, then Confirmation, and finally, First Holy Communion.

Again, the sacraments that initiate us into the Christian life are Baptism and Confirmation. Baptism and Confirmation go hand in hand, like a certificate given its official seal. In Baptism, Christians share in the death and resurrection of Jesus. In Confirmation, the Holy Spirit comes down upon us as it did on the Apostles on the day of Pentecost. Baptism and Confirmation are as inseparable as Easter and Pentecost Sundays, the first and last days of the Easter season.

Jesus himself was baptized and then confirmed by his Father with the gift of the Spirit: "After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and, behold, the heavens were opened for him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, saying, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased'" (Matthew 3:16-17).

In the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, the sacraments are received in the proper theological order, usually at the Easter vigil -Baptism, Confirmation, and then first Holy Communion. This takes place for anyone 7 years of age and older. Soon, our children baptized as infants will also be confirmed prior to First Communion.

Many Catholic Christians see Confirmation as a rite of passage into adulthood. Yet Confirmation is a sacrament of beginning, of initiation. It is not a sacrament of transition, of becoming an adult. The Catechism states, "Although Confirmation is sometimes called the 'sacrament of Christian maturity,' one must not confuse adult faith with the adult age of natural growth Age of body does not determine age of soul. Even in childhood one can attain spiritual maturity." (no. 1308).

In the Eastern Catholic Churches, infants are routinely confirmed ("Chrismation" in the eastern traditions). In the Roman Catholic Church, young children in danger of death are confirmed. At the other end of the age spectrum, if an elderly person is baptized, then he or she is immediately confirmed. The fact that infants, children, teenagers, young adults and the elderly can all be confirmed shows that Confirmation is not about becoming an adult. It is about being sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Soon, seven year-olds who were baptized as infants will complete their sacraments of initiation in this original order. (When this will happen depends on your parish plan.) Specifically, children will be confirmed prior to receiving First Communion. They will not "transition" into adulthood. They will be fully initiated into our faith.

Sometimes Catholics approach Confirmation like a graduation, saying, "I made my Confirmation," as if it is something that they earned after completing X number of service hours or attending Y percentage of Confirmation classes. But, that is not what Confirmation means.

It is God who confirms us in the free gift of our faith: "He has put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee" Ephesians 1:13, 4:30.

Pope Francis addressed this point in his general audience of Jan. 29, 2014: "Confirmation, like every sacrament, is not the work of men but of God, who cares for our lives in such a manner as to mold us in the image of his Son, to make us capable of loving like him. God does it by infusing in us his Holy Spirit, whose action pervades the whole person and his/her entire life."

Soon, seven year-olds who were baptized as infants will be confirmed prior to receiving First Communion. (When this will happen depends on your parish plan.) God will perfect in them the grace received at Baptism, perfect in them the common priesthood of all the faithful (Catechism of the Catholic Church, nos. 1305 and 1316).

Malia Puka OKalani

Stewardship of Treasure for the Month of July 2017

			Attendance		Koa Bowl	Food Pantry	Repair & Maintenance Fund	2 nd Collection	Misc	Gifts/ Donations
			Adults	Children						
Week 1	July 1	Sat	34	3	\$363.					\$7,000.
	July 2	Sun	55	8	\$1,110.50					
Week 2	July 8	Sat	42	2	\$432.	\$100.				
	July 9	Sun	65	5	\$1,019.50					
Week 3	July 15	Sat	39	3	\$372.50		\$125.		\$1,250.	
	July 16	Sun	57	2	\$1,148.					
Week 4	July 22	Sat	48	3	\$1,105.50	\$30.	\$45.	\$399.		
	July 23	Sun	46	8	\$770.19					
Week 5	July 29	Sat	23	0	\$309.50		\$23.		\$50. School Supply	
	July 30	Sun	73	10	\$1,099.					

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE: Our Social Outreach Ministry is collecting school supplies during the first two weekends in August. There will be a basket at the entrance to the church to collect your donations. If you need school supplies for your keiki write your name and phone number on a piece of paper and place it in the Koa bowl. Father Mike will have someone from the Social Outreach Ministry contact you to distribute the supplies.

CALLING ALL SINGERS: Our choir will resume practice on Tuesday, August 22nd, at 6:00 p.m. New choir vocalists and instrumentalists are cordially invited to join! Practice is every Tuesday from 6-7 p.m. Contact Norman at normanq@hawaii.edu for more information.

PARISH FOOD PANTRY: Mahalo. With your help, Malia has continued distributing food to families in need every third Wed of the month, 11:30 to 12:30pm. All food donations are welcome but, for now, we need to replenish the pantry with soups, porkNbeans, corned beef, pasta/sauces, ramen, canned tuna, cereal. Monetary donations are also welcome.

Parish Events for August

August 13th. PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING. The Council will meet after mass in the Sacristy meeting room.

August 15th. PARISH FEAST DAY CELEBRATION. Celebrate our parish Feast Day on the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Please bring flowers to the grotto as we pay tribute to our mother Mary. A potluck will follow mass.

August 15th. KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MONTHLY MEETING. 6:30pm at St. Joseph's parish room.

August 16th. There is no Mass on Wednesday.

August 19th and 20th. COMMISSIONINGS. Fr. Mike will commission all parish committee, subcommittee, and ministry members during mass. Committee chairs should submit their members' names to Fr. Mike as soon as possible.

August 19th and 20th. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION. Register your keiki with our RE coordinator in the patio after mass. Registration will continue every weekend through September 10th, the first day of RE classes.

August 26th and 27th. There will second collections for Catholic Charities Hawaii.

August 26th and 27th. LEARN ABOUT THE OFFICIAL DIOCESE APP, "myPARISH APP." Our parish young adults will demonstrate how to download and use myParish App. Much information on Malia will now be available on your cell phone or tablet such as events, Mass and Reconciliation times, Diocese and Hawaii Catholic Herald articles, daily readings, prayers, bulletins and much more. *Bring your cellphones and smart devices for this short session after Mass.*



OPEN TO EVERYONE
August 19th, St. Joseph School,
1000 Ululani St., Hilo

Register at www.catholicahawaii.org/hawaiifaithconference

Saturday Breakout Sessions: 8:45-10:30am; 10:50-12:20pm; 1:15-2:45pm

Session topics include: *Happy Parents, Happy Kids *Prayer and the Spiritual Life *Youth Ministry 101

*The Importance of Sacraments for Catholic Christians

SwapMeet

Malia Puka O Kalani Church - Fundraising Project

What: Swap meet

Where: In the church hall

When: September 17, 2017, 10:30AM to 1:00PM (After mass)

Why: New roof for the kitchen is needed

Who: All parishioners are invited to participate in this event.

The Concept: Bring your “garage sale” items, your “white elephants”, your merchandise, etc., price each item and sell them yourself. The parish will provide a table for a donation of \$20 (each table). Also, donate all or some of your cash proceeds from the sales, but you must donate at least 20% of your proceeds to the church for this project.

Also available will be tickets to purchase for chili that are redeemable at Zippy’s or Cafe 100.



Please fill out form below and return to the Finance Committee

Name _____ Phone Number _____

Number of tables needed _____ Amount \$ _____