

## Effects of the Sacrament of Baptism Cards

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### Forgiveness of Sins

The Sacrament of Baptism forgives *all* sin. This includes Original Sin, all personal sins, and any punishment for sin. Original Sin is the sin of Adam and Eve that is passed on to all of humanity. Personal sins are those sins that we commit. All sins have spiritual consequences, most especially mortal sin, which separates us from God. Baptism forgives all of these sins and removes all spiritual consequences. At the moment of Baptism, there is nothing that would prevent the baptized from entering Heaven.

Some earthly consequences for sin remain after Baptism. This includes suffering, sickness, and death during our earthly lives. Also, all of humanity experiences a tendency to sin called *concupiscence*. This is a kind of human weakness that can be resisted with the help of God's grace.

### A New Creature

The Sacrament of Baptism makes the baptized a new creation in the eyes of God. We are made adopted sons and daughters of God and sharers in His divine life. As God's children, through Baptism, we also receive the benefit of all God's promises, and our bodies become temples of the Holy Spirit.

This is all possible because Baptism gives us sanctifying grace. Sanctifying grace is the undeserved gift of God's life within us. It makes us able to believe in God, hope in His promises of salvation, and love Him and all that He has made. Sanctifying grace also gives us the power to live a holy life with the help of the Holy Spirit. Baptism is the foundation of the Christian life.

## *Member of the Church*

The Sacrament of Baptism makes the baptized a member of the Church, the Body of Christ. We become united to everyone who has also been baptized. Together we become one people of God. Scripture explains that Baptism makes us “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of [God’s] own” (1 Peter 2:9). This means that the baptized are made into a common priesthood of all believers, who are called to serve one another in love and sacrifice.

As members of Christ’s Church, we are given all the rights and privileges that come with membership. This means that the baptized may receive all the other Sacraments, worship fully at Mass, and receive all the other spiritual help of the Church. The baptized also are given the mission of the Church, which is to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with all who will hear it. The baptized who profess the Faith of the Church must also be obedient to the teachings and leaders of the Church who were appointed by Jesus Himself.

## *Indelible Mark*

The Sacrament of Baptism gives the baptized an indelible, or permanent, spiritual mark on his or her soul. This spiritual mark is not removable, even if the baptized person sins and gives up his Faith. Therefore, the Sacrament of Baptism can be received only once.

The Holy Spirit places this mark upon our souls to set us apart for the day of redemption. Over the course of our lives, this indelible mark enables us to participate fully in the Mass. It also allows us to use the Gifts of the Holy Spirit given to us at our Baptism to live a life of holiness. The Christian who remains faithful to the demands of his or her Baptism will leave this life “marked with the sign of faith” and expect to enter the Kingdom of God and be saved.

## *Bond of Unity*

The Sacrament of Baptism goes beyond any barriers made by race, nationality, culture, or gender and makes us one Body of Christ. Other Christian faiths also celebrate Baptism. We recognize the truth of Baptism that occurs outside of the Catholic Church as long as it is done “in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” Therefore, Baptism makes us all brothers and sisters in Christ and rightly called Christians. Baptism forms a sacramental bond of unity among everyone who is reborn through it.