

Powers Coming Forth from the Body of Christ



**A Scriptural
Play about the
7 Sacraments**

**An Excerpt From
*The Gospel Players
Script Book***



By Sister Mary Rose Reddy, DMML

Powers Coming Forth from the Body of Christ is an originally arranged Scriptural play by Sister Mary Rose Reddy, DMML. It is an excerpt from [The Gospel Players' Script Book; the four Gospels & the Acts of the Apostles in Script](#). This play is based on Scriptural references to the seven Sacraments and is meant to be an aid for teaching the Sacraments.

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Narrator: As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches, “Sacraments are ‘powers that comes forth’ from the Body of Christ” (CCC § 1116). Our knowledge of these seven great gifts comes to us from Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. This play will illustrate some of the New Testament references to the seven Sacraments.

POWERS ACT I: Baptism

POWERS ACT I, SCENE I: Baptism of Jesus

Narrator: St. John the Baptist, the great forerunner of the Lord, explained the difference between his baptism of repentance and the baptism that the Father’s Anointed One would bring:

St. Matthew: In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea,

John the Baptist: Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

St. Matthew: For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,

Isaiah: The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

St. Matthew: Now John wore a garment of camel's hair, and a leather girdle around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then went out to him Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them,

John the Baptist: You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit that befits repentance, and do not presume to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our father”; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.

St. Matthew: Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying,

John the Baptist: I need to be baptized by you

, and do you come to me?

St. Matthew: But Jesus answered him,

Jesus: Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.

St. Matthew: Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on him; and lo, a voice from heaven, saying,

God the Father: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased (*Mt 3*).

POWERS ACT 1; SCENE II: Jesus teaches Nicodemus about the necessity for Baptism.

Narrator: St. John explained that those who believed in the Word were going to receive a new power, the power to become the sons of God.

St. John: The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father (*Jn 1:9-14*).

Narrator: In his conversation with Nicodemus, Jesus spoke of the necessity of undergoing the new birth of Baptism in order to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

St. John: Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him,

Nicodemus: Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do, unless God is with him.

St. John: Jesus answered him,

Jesus: Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

St. John: Nicodemus said to him,

Nicodemus: How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?

St. John: Jesus answered,

Jesus: Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, “You must be born anew.” The wind blows where it wills, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know whence it comes or whither it goes; so it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.

St. John: Nicodemus said to him,

Nicodemus: How can this be?

St. John: Jesus answered him,

Jesus: Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand this? Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen; but you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

POWERS ACT I; SCENE III: Source of Gift of Baptism

Narrator: God formed Eve from the side of Adam. He formed the Church, the Bride of Christ, from the side of Jesus, the new Adam, as He slept the sleep of death on the Cross. The Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Holy of Holies was opened on Calvary by the sword of Longinus. The Precious Blood and Water which came forth from His Heart are the Source of all the Sacraments, particularly Baptism and the Holy Eucharist.

St. John: But standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother,

Jesus: Woman, behold, your son!

St. John: Then he said to the disciple,

Jesus: Behold, your mother!

St. John: And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home. After this Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the scripture),

Jesus: I thirst.

St. John: A bowl full of vinegar stood there; so they put a sponge full of the vinegar on hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the vinegar, he said,

Jesus: It is finished;

St. John: And he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. Since it was the day of Preparation, in order to prevent the bodies from remaining on the cross on the sabbath (for that sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him; but when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. He who saw it has borne witness--his testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth--that you also may believe. For these things took place that the scripture might be fulfilled, "Not a bone of him shall be broken." And again another scripture says, "They shall look on him whom they have pierced."

POWERS ACT I; SCENE IV: Pentecost and Baptism

Narrator: Ten days after the Resurrected Jesus ascended into Heaven, He and the Father sent their Holy Spirit to our Blessed Mother, the Apostles, the disciples, the holy women, and through them to all of us. St. Peter explained to those who had gathered after hearing the sound of a great wind, that through repentance and Baptism they too could receive the Holy Spirit.

Peter: Brethren, I may say to you confidently of the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants upon his throne, he foresaw and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this which you see and hear. For David did not ascend into the heavens; but he himself says,

David: The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, till I make your enemies a stool for your feet.

Peter: Let all the house of Israel therefore know assuredly that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.

St. Luke: Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles,

Multitude: Brethren, what shall we do?

St. Luke: And Peter said to them,

Peter: Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children and to all that are far off, every one whom the Lord our God calls to him (*Acts 2:29-39*).

POWERS ACT II: Confirmation

Narrator: Before ascending to His Father Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to His disciples....On several occasions Christ promised this outpouring of the Spirit, a promise which he fulfilled first on Easter Sunday and then more strikingly on Pentecost Sunday (CCC § 1287). In the Sacrament of Confirmation Jesus fulfills His promise to send the fullness of the Holy Spirit on His people.

POWERS ACT II; SCENE I: Jesus promises the Holy Spirit

St. Luke: In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. To them he presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to

Jesus: Wait for the promise of the Father,

St. Luke: which, he said,

Jesus: You heard from me, for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.

St. Luke: So when they had come together, they asked him,

Apostles: Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?

St. Luke: He said to them,

Jesus: It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth.

St. Luke: And when he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said,

Two men: Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.

St. Luke: Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away; and when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. All these with one accord devoted themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers (*Acts 1:1-14*).

POWERS ACT II; SCENE II: Pentecost

Narrator: "It is evident from its celebration that the effect of the sacrament of Confirmation is the special outpouring of the Holy Spirit as once granted to the apostles on the day of Pentecost" (CCC § 1302).

St. Luke: When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. And they were amazed and wondered, saying,

Multitude: Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians, we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.

St. Luke: And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another,

All: What does this mean?

St. Luke: But others mocking said,

Others: They are filled with new wine.

St. Luke: But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them,

Peter: Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day; but this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

Joel: And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; yes, and on my menservants and my maidservants in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth beneath, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; the sun shall be turned into darkness and the moon into blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and manifest day. And it shall be that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved (*Acts 2:1-21*).

POWERS ACT II; SCENE III: Peter and John are sent to confirm the Samaritans

Narrator: “From that time on the apostles, in fulfillment of Christ’s will, imparted to the newly baptized by the laying on of hands the gift of the Spirit that completes the grace of Baptism” (CCC § 1288).

St. Luke: Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit; for it had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit (*Acts 8:14-17*).

POWERS ACT III: The Holy Eucharist

POWERS ACT III; SCENE I: Jesus promises the Eucharist.

Narrator: The day after Jesus fed 5,000 people with five loaves of bread and two fish, He promised that He would give them the Living Bread come down from Heaven-- His own Flesh and Blood to be their food of eternal life.

St. John: On the next day the people who remained on the other side of the sea saw that there had been only one boat there, and that Jesus had not entered the boat with his disciples, but that his disciples had gone away alone. However, boats from Tiberias came near the place where they ate the bread after the Lord had given thanks. So when the people saw that Jesus was not there, nor his disciples, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum, seeking Jesus. When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him,

People: Rabbi, when did you come here?

St. John: Jesus answered them,

Jesus: Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of man will give to you; for on him has God the Father set his seal.

St. John: Then they said to him,

People: What must we do, to be doing the works of God?

St. John: Jesus answered them,

Jesus: This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.

St. John: So they said to him,

People: Then what sign do you do, that we may see, and believe you? What work do you perform? Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, “He gave them bread from heaven to eat.”

St. John: Jesus then said to them,

Jesus: Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven; my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven, and gives life to the world.

St. John: They said to him,

People: Lord, give us this bread always.

St. John: Jesus said to them,

Jesus: I am the bread of life; he who comes to me shall not hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. All that the Father gives me will come to me; and him who comes to me I will not cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me; and this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up at the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him should have eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.

St. John: The Jews then murmured at him, because he said,

Jesus: I am the bread which came down from heaven.

St. John: They said,

Jews: Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does he now say, “I have come down from heaven?”

St. John: Jesus answered them,

Jesus: Do not murmur among yourselves. No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, “And they shall all be taught by God.” Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except him who is from God; he has seen the Father. Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that a man may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if any one eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh.

St. John: The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying,

Jews: How can this man give us his flesh to eat?

St. John: So Jesus said to them,

Jesus: Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you; he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats me will live because of me. This is the bread which came down from heaven, not such as the fathers ate and died; he who eats this bread will live forever.

St. John: This he said in the synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum. Many of his disciples, when they heard it, said,

Many disciples: This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?

St. John: But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples murmured at it, said to them,

Jesus: Do you take offense at this? Then what if you were to see the Son of man ascending where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh is of no avail; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But there are some of you that do not believe.

St. John: For Jesus knew from the first who those were that did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. And he said,

Jesus: This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.

St. John: After this many of his disciples drew back and no longer went about with him. Jesus said to the twelve,

Jesus: Do you also wish to go away?

St. John: Simon Peter answered him,

Peter: Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life; and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.

St. John: Jesus answered them,

Jesus: Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?

St. John: He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was to betray him (*Jn 6:22-72*).

POWERS ACT III; SCENE II: Jesus institutes the Eucharist.

Narrator: It was at the Last Supper, the night before He died for us that Jesus gave us the Gift of His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity in the Eucharist.

St. Matthew: Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying,

Disciples: Where will you have us prepare for you to eat the passover?

St. Matthew: He said,

Jesus: Go into the city to a certain one, and say to him, “The Teacher says, My time is at hand; I will keep the passover at your house with my disciples.”

St. Matthew: And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the passover. When it was evening, he sat at table with the twelve disciples; and as they were eating, he said,

Jesus: Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.

St. Matthew: And they were very sorrowful, and began to say to him one after another,

Each disciple: Is it I, Lord?

St. Matthew: He answered,

Jesus: He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me, will betray me. The Son of man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.

St. Matthew: Judas, who betrayed him, said,

Judas: Is it I, Master?

St. Matthew: He said to him,

Jesus: You have said so.

St. Matthew: Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said,

Jesus: Take, eat; this is my body.

St. Matthew: And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying,

Jesus: Drink of it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I shall not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom (*Mt 26:17-29*).

POWERS ACT III; SCENE III: The Church continues to celebrate the Eucharist.

Narrator: Immediately after Pentecost the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass was already being offered by the apostles.

St. Luke: And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And fear came upon every soul; and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common; and they sold their possessions and goods and distributed them to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they partook of food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved (*Acts 2:42-47*).

Narrator: St. Paul explained how the Lord revealed to Him the Mystery of the Eucharist.

St. Paul: For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a man examine himself, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment upon himself. That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. But if we judged ourselves truly, we should not be judged. But when we are judged by the Lord, we are chastened so that we may not be condemned along with the world (*1 Cor 11:23-32*).

POWERS ACT IV: Reconciliation

POWERS ACT IV; SCENE I: Jesus gives the Apostles the power to forgive sins.

Narrator: On Easter Sunday night, Jesus appeared to His frightened apostles and gave us through them the Gift of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

St. John: On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them,

Jesus: Peace be with you.

St. John: When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again,

Jesus: Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.

St. John: And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them,

Jesus: Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained (*Jn 20:19-23*).

POWERS ACT V: The Anointing of the Sick

Narrator: Jesus provides this Sacrament for consolation, spiritual healing, and sometimes physical healing of those who are sick or are facing serious medical issues.

POWERS ACT V; SCENE I: Jesus sends out His Apostles to heal the sick.

St. Matthew: And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every infirmity (*Mt 10:1*).

St. Mark: So they went out and preached that men should repent. And they cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many that were sick and healed them (*Mk 6:12*).

POWERS ACT V; SCENE II: St. James advises that the priests be called to anoint the sick.

St. James: Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith will save the sick man, and the Lord will raise him up; and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man has great power in its effects (*James 5:14-16*).

POWERS ACT VI: Marriage

Narrator: Jesus is the Bridegroom Who came down from Heaven to unite His Bride the Church to Himself through His Passion, Death, Resurrection and the gift of Himself through the Sacraments. Sacramental marriage is the icon of this love of Christ for His Bride, the Church.

POWERS ACT VI; SCENE I: Jesus performs his first public miracle at a wedding.

St. John: On the third day there was a marriage at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; Jesus also was invited to the marriage, with his disciples. When the wine failed, the mother of Jesus said to him,

Mother of Jesus: They have no wine.

St. John: And Jesus said to her,

Jesus: O woman, what have you to do with me? My hour has not yet come.

St. John: His mother said to the servants,

Mother of Jesus: Do whatever he tells you.

St. John: Now six stone jars were standing there, for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them,

Jesus: Fill the jars with water.

St. John: And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them,

Jesus: Now draw some out, and take it to the steward of the feast.

St. John: So they took it. When the steward of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward of the feast called the bridegroom and said to him,

Steward: Every man serves the good wine first; and when men have drunk freely, then the poor wine; but you have kept the good wine until now.

St. John: This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory; and his disciples believed in him (*Jn 2:1-11*).

POWERS ACT VI; SCENE II: Jesus speaks about the nature of marriage.

St. Matthew: Now when Jesus had finished these sayings, he went away from Galilee and entered the region of Judea beyond the Jordan; and large crowds followed him, and he healed them there. And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking,

Pharisees: Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?

St. Matthew: He answered,

Jesus: Have you not read that he who made them from the beginning made them male and female, and said,

God the Father: For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one.

Jesus: So they are no longer two but one. What therefore God has joined together, let not man put asunder.

St. Matthew: They said to him,

Pharisees: Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?

St. Matthew: He said to them,

Jesus: For your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for unchastity, and marries another, commits adultery; and he who marries a divorced woman, commits adultery.

St. Matthew: The disciples said to him,

Disciples: If such is the case of a man with his wife, it is not expedient to marry.

St. Matthew: But he said to them,

Jesus: Not all men can receive this saying, but only those to whom it is given. For there are eunuchs who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. He who is able to receive this, let him receive it (*Mt 19:1-12*).

POWERS ACT VI; SCENE III: St. Paul explains the spousal meaning of the body.

St. Paul: Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, be subject to your husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. As the church is subject to Christ, so let wives also be subject in everything to their husbands. Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. Even so husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no man ever hates his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” This mystery is a profound one, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church; however, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband (*Eph 5:21-32*).

POWERS ACT VII: HOLY ORDERS

Narrator: The Sacrament of Holy Orders was instituted by Jesus at the Last Supper when He took bread and said to His Apostles, “This is my Body which is being given for you; do this in remembrance of me” (*Lk 22:19*). The Apostles thus became the first bishops, the high priests of the Catholic Church. They in turn ordained other men to be bishops, priests, and deacons.

POWERS ACT VII; SCENE I: Jesus institutes the priesthood at the Last Supper.

St. Luke: Now the feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called the Passover. And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to put him to death; for they feared the people. Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was of the number of the twelve; he went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers how he might betray him to them. And they were glad, and engaged to give him money. So he agreed, and sought an opportunity to betray him to them in the absence of the multitude. Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the passover lamb had to be sacrificed. So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying,

Jesus: Go and prepare the passover for us, that we may eat it.

St. Luke: They said to him,

Peter and John: Where will you have us prepare it?

St. Luke: He said to them,

Jesus: Behold, when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him into the house which he enters, and tell the householder, “The Teacher says to you, ‘Where is the guest room, where I am to eat the passover with my disciples?’” And he will show you a large upper room furnished; there make ready.

St. Luke: And they went, and found it as he had told them; and they prepared the passover. And when the hour came, he sat at table, and the apostles with him. And he said to them,

Jesus: I have earnestly desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you I shall not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.

St. Luke: And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said,

Jesus: Take this, and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I shall not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.

St. Luke: And he took bread, and when he had given thanks he broke it and gave it to them, saying,

Jesus: This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

St. Luke: And likewise the cup after supper, saying,

Jesus: This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. But behold the hand of him who betrays me is with me on the table. For the Son of man goes as it has been determined; but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!

St. Luke: And they began to question one another, which of them it was that would do this. A dispute also arose among them, which of them was to be regarded as the greatest. And he said to them,

Jesus: The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you; rather let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves. For which is the greater, one who sits at table, or one who serves? Is it not the one who sits at table? But I am among you as one who serves. You are those who have continued with me in my trials; and I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom, that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel (*Lk 22:1-30*).

POWERS ACT VII; SCENE II: The ordination of bishops and priests

Narrator: The Apostles were the first bishops of the Church. They received from Jesus the power to consecrate bread and wine into His Body and Blood, the power to forgive sins, the power to rule and govern the Church, and the power to ordain other men to be bishops, priests, and deacons. Bishops are the high priests and only they have the power to ordain other men to the three levels of the Sacrament of Holy Orders. It's clear that Paul and Barnabas were ordained bishops since they had the power to ordain others.

St. Luke: Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a member of the court of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said,

Holy Spirit: Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.

St. Luke: Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off. So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia; and from there they sailed to Cyprus.

Narrator: St. Luke explained how Paul and Barnabas considered it very important to ordain priests to lead their newly founded congregations. .” English translations of the New Testament usually refer to Catholic priests as “elders” or “presbyters.” They were ordained by laying on of hands.

St. Luke: When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they believed (*Acts 14:21-23*).

Narrator: Paul ordained Timothy a bishop, reminded him to protect this gift, warned him not to be too hasty in choosing other men to ordain, and counseled him to take good care of the “elders.”

St. Paul: Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the council of elders laid their hands upon you (*2 Tm 1:6*). Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands (*1 Tm 5:22*). Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching; for the scripture says, “You shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the grain,” and, “The laborer deserves his wages.” Never admit any charge against an elder except on the evidence of two or three witnesses. As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all, so that the rest may stand in fear (*1 Tm 5:17-20*).

Narrator: Paul reminded Timothy of the grace he had received in his ordination.

St. Paul: Hence I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of timidity but a spirit of power and love and self-control. Do not be ashamed then of testifying to our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for

the gospel in the power of God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not in virtue of our works but in virtue of his own purpose and the grace which he gave us in Christ Jesus ages ago, and now has manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. For this gospel I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, and therefore I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me. Follow the pattern of the sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus; guard the truth that has been entrusted to you by the Holy Spirit who dwells within us (*2 Tm 1:6-14*).

POWERS ACT VII; SCENE IV: The ordination of deacons

Narrator: The Apostles ordained deacons to help them to serve the people so that they could devote themselves to prayer and the ministry of the word. Unlike bishops and priests, deacons do not have the power to consecrate bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ and to forgive sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

St. Luke: Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists murmured against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the body of the disciples and said,

Apostles: It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brethren, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.

St. Luke: And what they said pleased the whole multitude, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands upon them. And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith. And Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people (*Acts 6:1-8*).

Narrator: We know that the greatest power on earth is Love and that God Himself is Love. In the seven Sacraments, the “powers coming forth from the Body of Christ” we experience in a very tangible way the Power of God’s Infinite everlasting Love for each of us! Let us praise God forever for these seven beautiful ways He expresses His Love for us continually!