

## **Part 4: The Sacrament of Holy Baptism**

### **1. What is Baptism?**

Baptism is not simply water, but is the water comprehended in God's command, and connected with God's word.

#### **What is that Word of God?**

That which our Lord Jesus Christ says in the last chapter of Matthew: "Go ye, and teach all nations: baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

### **2. What benefits does Baptism confer?**

It works forgiveness of sins, delivers from death and the devil, and gives everlasting salvation to all who believe what the Word and promise of God declare.

#### **What are such words and promises of God?**

Those which our Lord Jesus Christ says in the last chapter of Mark: "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."

### **3. How can water do such great things?**

It is not water indeed that does it, but the Word of God which is in and with the water, and faith which trusts this Word of God in the water. For the water, without the Word of God is simply water and no baptism. But with the Word of God, it is baptism, that is, a gracious water of life and a washing of regeneration in the Holy Ghost; as St. Paul says, in the third chapter of Titus, "According to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost: which He shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; that being justified by His grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. This is a faithful saying."

### **4. What does baptizing signify?**

It signifies that the old Adam in us should, by daily sorrow and repentance, be drowned and die, with all sins and evil lusts; and that again the new man should daily come forth and rise, who shall live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

#### **Where is this written?**

St. Paul in the Epistle to the Romans, Chapter 6, says: "We are buried with Christ by baptism into death; that like as He was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."