

**Mt. St. Michael  
CATHOLIC DOCTRINE CLASS**

**“A Study of *Tumultuous Times* – Part II”  
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***Part D – The Seven Sacraments and the new “Sacraments,” Penance,  
pp. 429-445***

**A. Basic Sacramental theology**

1. Four things absolutely needed for a valid Sacrament:
  - a. *Matter* the material needed
  - b. *Form* the correct, essential words of the Sacrament formula
  - c. *Intention* at the very least, that of “doing what Christ (or the Church) does”
  - d. *Minister* He must have the power to perform the Sacramental rite
2. Applied to Sacrament of Penance
  - a. *Matter* Acts of contrition, confession, satisfaction
  - b. *Form* The essential words are “*Absolvo te*” (“*I absolve thee*”) In practice, however, the priests use the following words as the penitent is reciting the Act of Contrition:

*May almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you your sins, and lead you to everlasting life.*

*May the almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, absolution, and remission of your sins. Amen.*

*May our Lord Jesus Christ absolve you. And I by His authority release you from every bond of excommunication (suspension) and interdict, in so far as I am empowered and you have need. And now I absolve you from your sins; in the name of the Father, and of the Son, + and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*May the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, the merits of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the saints, and all the good you do and the suffering you endure, gain for you the remission of your sins, increase of grace, and the reward of everlasting life. Amen.*
  - c. *Intention* “Doing as the Church does”
  - d. *Minister* Must be a validly-ordained, and properly-authorized priest!
    - i. Without valid ordination, no sacramental remission of sins
    - ii. To be properly authorized, a priest must have at least supplied jurisdiction (Pope & Bishops of dioceses have *ordinary* jurisdiction; they bestow *delegated* jurisdiction on priests, either individually or by law; in doubtful situations *supplied* jurisdiction is given).
    - iii. Canon 209 – *The Church supplies jurisdiction both for the external and the internal forum (1) in common error, (2) in a positive and probable doubt of fact as well as of law.*

**B. Purpose of the Sacrament of Penance**

1. It was divinely instituted the night of Easter Sunday.
2. The wording Our Lord used imposes an obligation of confessing at least one’s mortal sins: “Whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven. Whose sins you shall retain, they

are retained” (John 20:23). The Church commands us to go to Confession at least once a year, and when in danger of death.

3. Its primary purpose is to forgive mortal sin; its secondary purpose, to forgive venial sin (cf. Council of Trent quote)
4. It is extremely beneficial to perseverance and spiritual progress.

**C. Does the Sacrament of Penance exist in the Church of Vatican II? No, primarily because of the loss of the Sacrament of Orders. Serious concerns could also be raised about a substantial change in intention.**

1. As a result of Vatican II, there has been a terrible loss of the sense of sin – one of the greatest victories the devil could have ever won!
2. The holier one becomes, the more keenly aware is that person of the evil of sin. Witness how fervently the saints would atone for the slightest faults and sins.
3. Frequent Confession a thing of the past (Bp. Sheen’s comment)
4. Pp. 430-432, pp. 438-444
5. New “Rite of Reconciliation” – a shift from offending God to offending the “community.” Psalm 50:6 emphasizes that sin is something primarily against God: “Against Thee only have I sinned, and done what is evil in Thy sight.”