

The SEVEN SACRAMENTS

Edited by DANIEL A. LORD, S. J.

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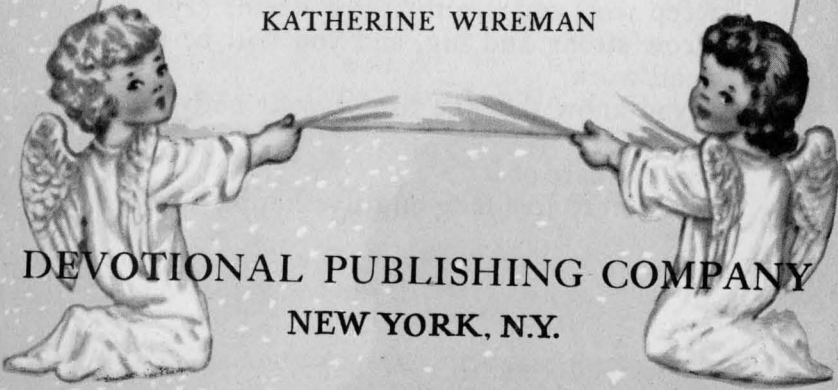
THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS

THE STORY OF THE
LIFE OF YOUR SOUL

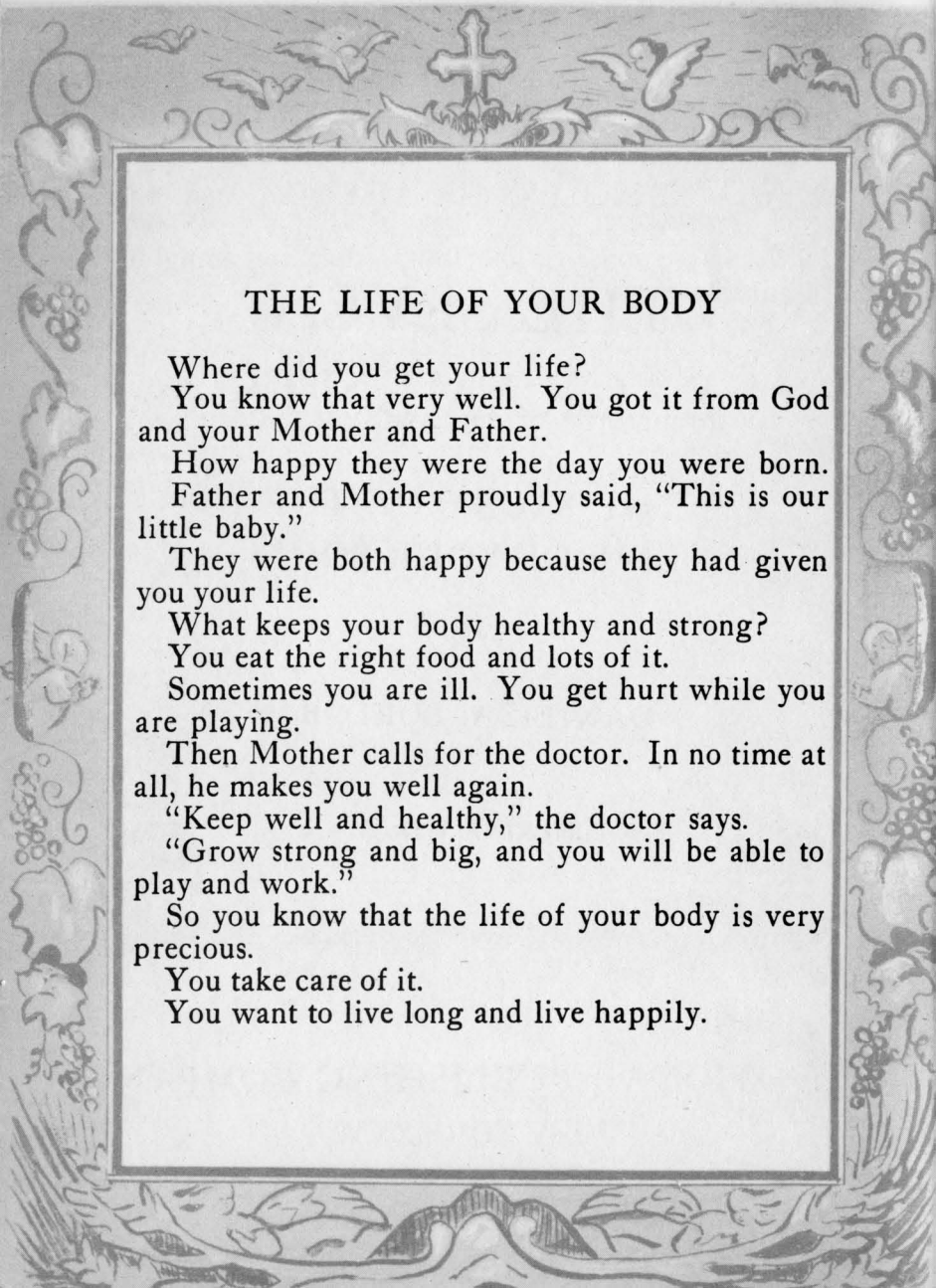
by

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ILLUSTRATED BY
KATHERINE WIREMAN



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THE LIFE OF YOUR BODY

Where did you get your life?

You know that very well. You got it from God and your Mother and Father.

How happy they were the day you were born.

Father and Mother proudly said, "This is our little baby."

They were both happy because they had given you your life.

What keeps your body healthy and strong?

You eat the right food and lots of it.

Sometimes you are ill. You get hurt while you are playing.

Then Mother calls for the doctor. In no time at all, he makes you well again.

"Keep well and healthy," the doctor says.

"Grow strong and big, and you will be able to play and work."

So you know that the life of your body is very precious.

You take care of it.

You want to live long and live happily.



LET'S LOOK AHEAD

Let's see some of the things that are going to happen to you.

You will go to school.

You will study and learn a lot of important things.

All through your life, you will eat and drink the food you need.

Some day when you are grown up, you will start your life's work.

Probably you will marry. You will build a home. You will have your own children.

Or you may become a priest or a doctor or a nun or a nurse or a soldier or a teacher.

There will be times when you will be sick.

You will have friends and you will love to be with them.

And then, a long time from now, you will grow old.

In the end, you will die.

Your body will be placed in the grave.

But your soul will go on living forever and forever.

And some day, your body will rise from the grave.

And forever and forever, your body and soul will be living in eternity.



How happy your parents were when you were born.



“You will go to school.”



YOUR BODY AND YOUR SOUL

You eat so that you will grow strong.
You call for a doctor when you are ill.
You go to school to learn how to be a success in
life.

Sometime in the future, you will pick your life
work.

Sometime in the future, you may marry.

In the end, your body will die.

Our dear Lord is interested in all that you
ever do.

He is with you, helping you all the time.

But He says, "Remember that your soul will live
forever. Take care of your body carefully. But
take even more care of your soul."

And He says, "I want to help you all through
life. I want your soul to be strong and beautiful.
I will help your soul as long as you live.

"Here," He says, "are the helps you need all
through life."

What are those helps?

They are the Sacraments.



THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS

God gave us Seven Sacraments.

They are our seven great helps to make us happy and strong.

The first is Baptism. We receive Baptism when we are little babies.

The second is Confirmation. We receive Confirmation during school days.

The third is Penance or Confession. We receive this when we are old enough to sin.

The fourth is the Holy Eucharist or Holy Communion. This is the food of our souls.

The fifth is Holy Orders. This is the wonderful Sacrament that makes a man become a priest.

The sixth is Matrimony. A man and woman receive this when they get married.

The seventh is Extreme Unction. This is given to us before we die.

So from the time we are born until we die, the dear Lord gives us powerful helps.

He wants our bodies to be strong and healthy.

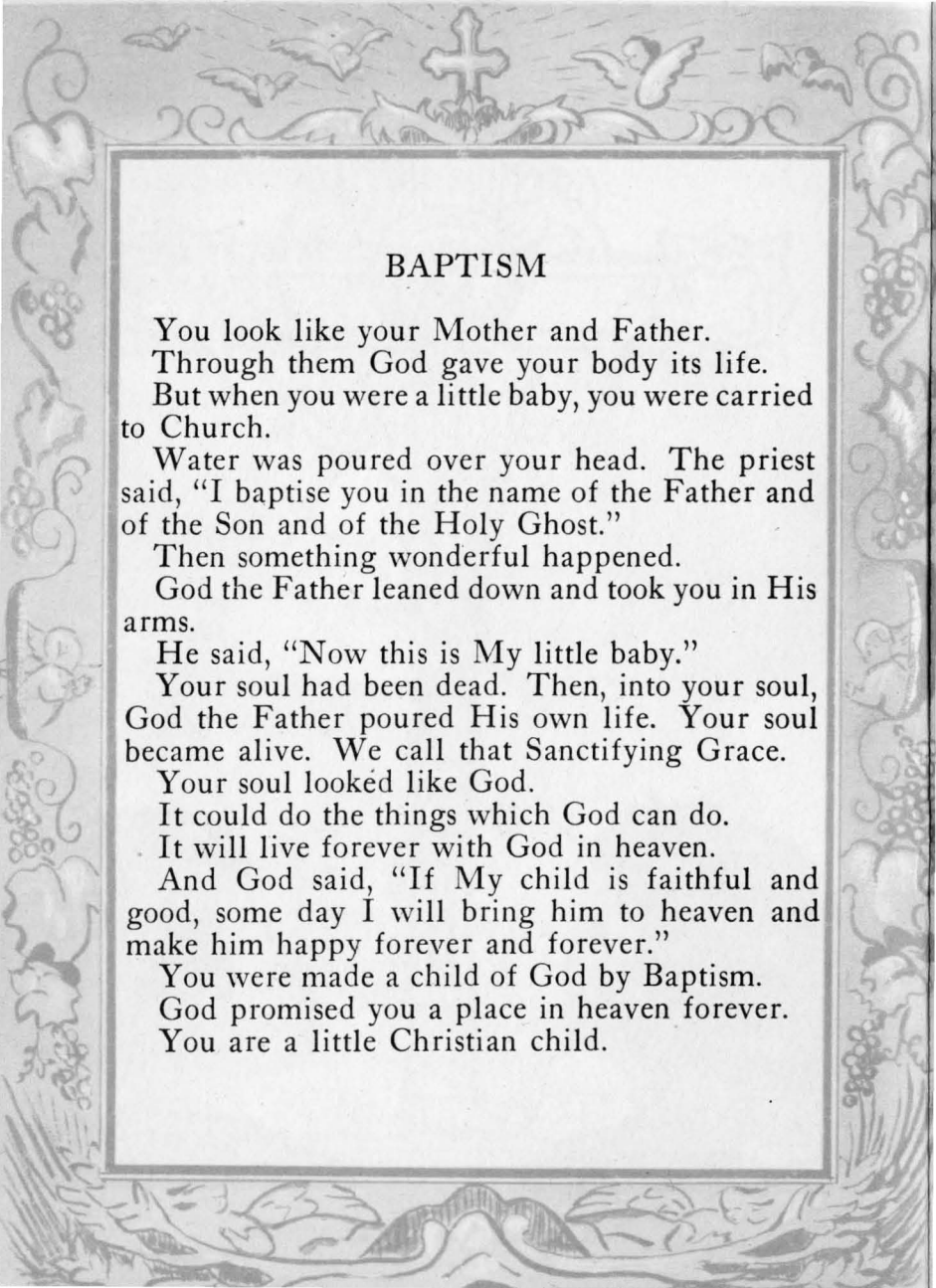
But He wants our precious souls to be stronger still and to live with Him forever in Heaven.



You eat to grow strong.



God gave us Seven Sacraments.



BAPTISM

You look like your Mother and Father.
Through them God gave your body its life.
But when you were a little baby, you were carried
to Church.

Water was poured over your head. The priest
said, "I baptise you in the name of the Father and
of the Son and of the Holy Ghost."

Then something wonderful happened.

God the Father leaned down and took you in His
arms.

He said, "Now this is My little baby."

Your soul had been dead. Then, into your soul,
God the Father poured His own life. Your soul
became alive. We call that Sanctifying Grace.

Your soul looked like God.

It could do the things which God can do.

It will live forever with God in heaven.

And God said, "If My child is faithful and
good, some day I will bring him to heaven and
make him happy forever and forever."

You were made a child of God by Baptism.

God promised you a place in heaven forever.

You are a little Christian child.



CONFIRMATION

For a long time you were a baby. You did not think. You could not help yourself. You could not commit sin.

Then one day you knew you were growing up.

Mother said, "How big you are getting!"

Suddenly, you knew that it was bad to disobey and sinful to be mean and nasty. You knew that you ought to be good and sweet and kind.

You were going to school.

You wanted to grow up and be strong. You wanted to know what to do and how to do it.

God said, "Come to Church once more."

So you went and the Bishop met you there. He placed his hands upon your head. He rubbed your forehead with holy oil. What happened?

God the Holy Ghost came upon you. He took up His place in your soul.

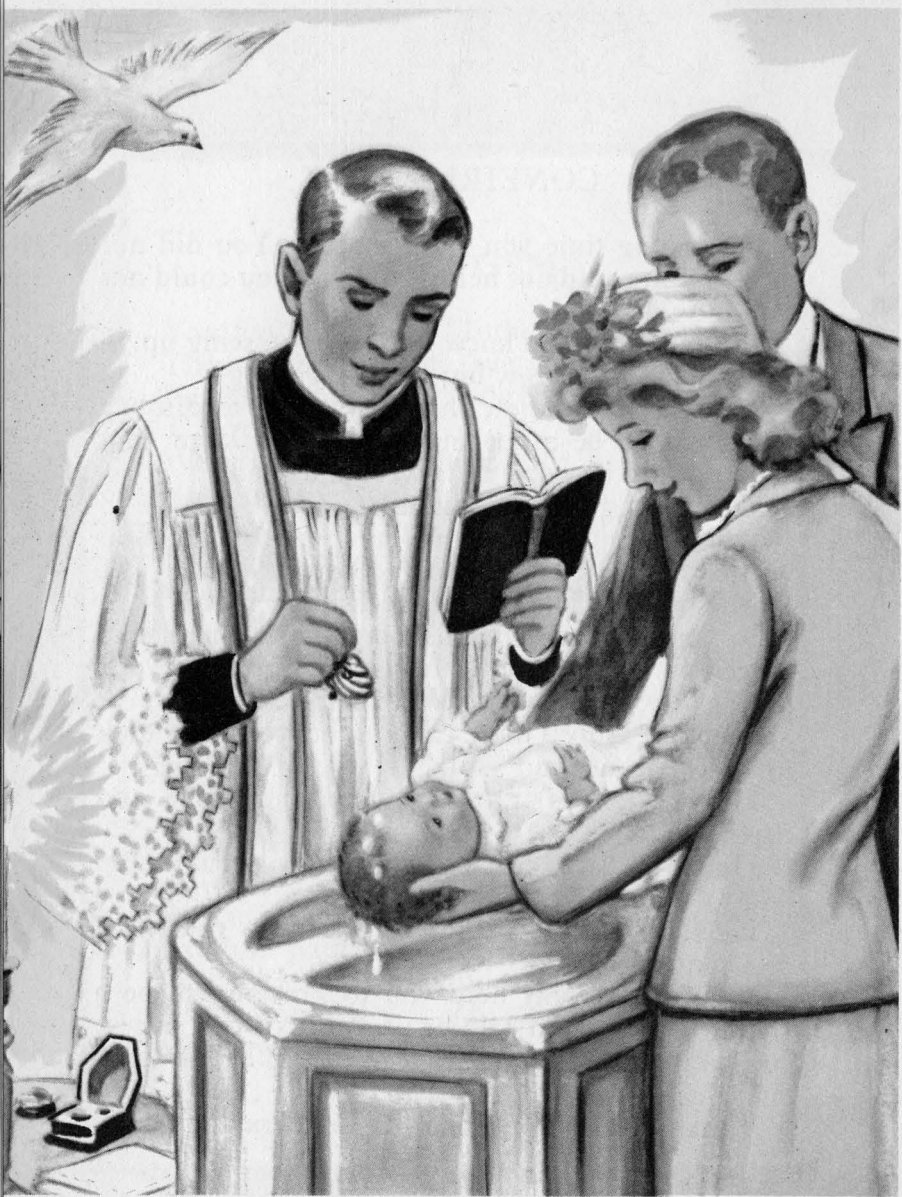
He is the Spirit of Wisdom and Love and Strength.

He said, "I will teach you what is right and help you to do it."

He said, "I will make you strong to resist evil and remain good."

He said, "I will help you to grow up to be a strong Christian, a soldier of Jesus Christ, a wise person with the courage to lead a good and successful life."

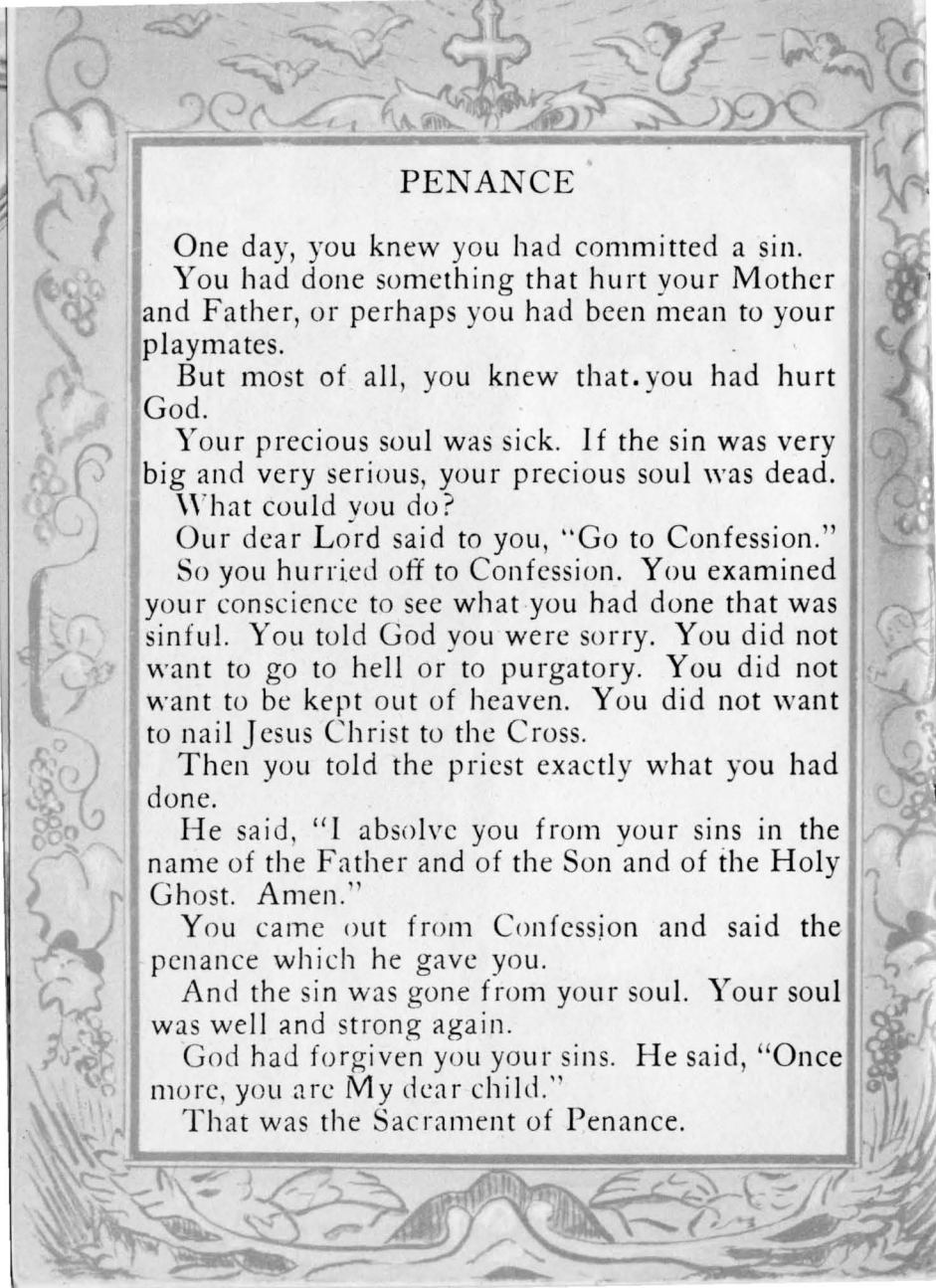
That was the Sacrament of Confirmation.



“I baptize you—”



"He took up His place in your soul."



PENANCE

One day, you knew you had committed a sin.

You had done something that hurt your Mother and Father, or perhaps you had been mean to your playmates.

But most of all, you knew that you had hurt God.

Your precious soul was sick. If the sin was very big and very serious, your precious soul was dead.

What could you do?

Our dear Lord said to you, "Go to Confession."

So you hurried off to Confession. You examined your conscience to see what you had done that was sinful. You told God you were sorry. You did not want to go to hell or to purgatory. You did not want to be kept out of heaven. You did not want to nail Jesus Christ to the Cross.

Then you told the priest exactly what you had done.

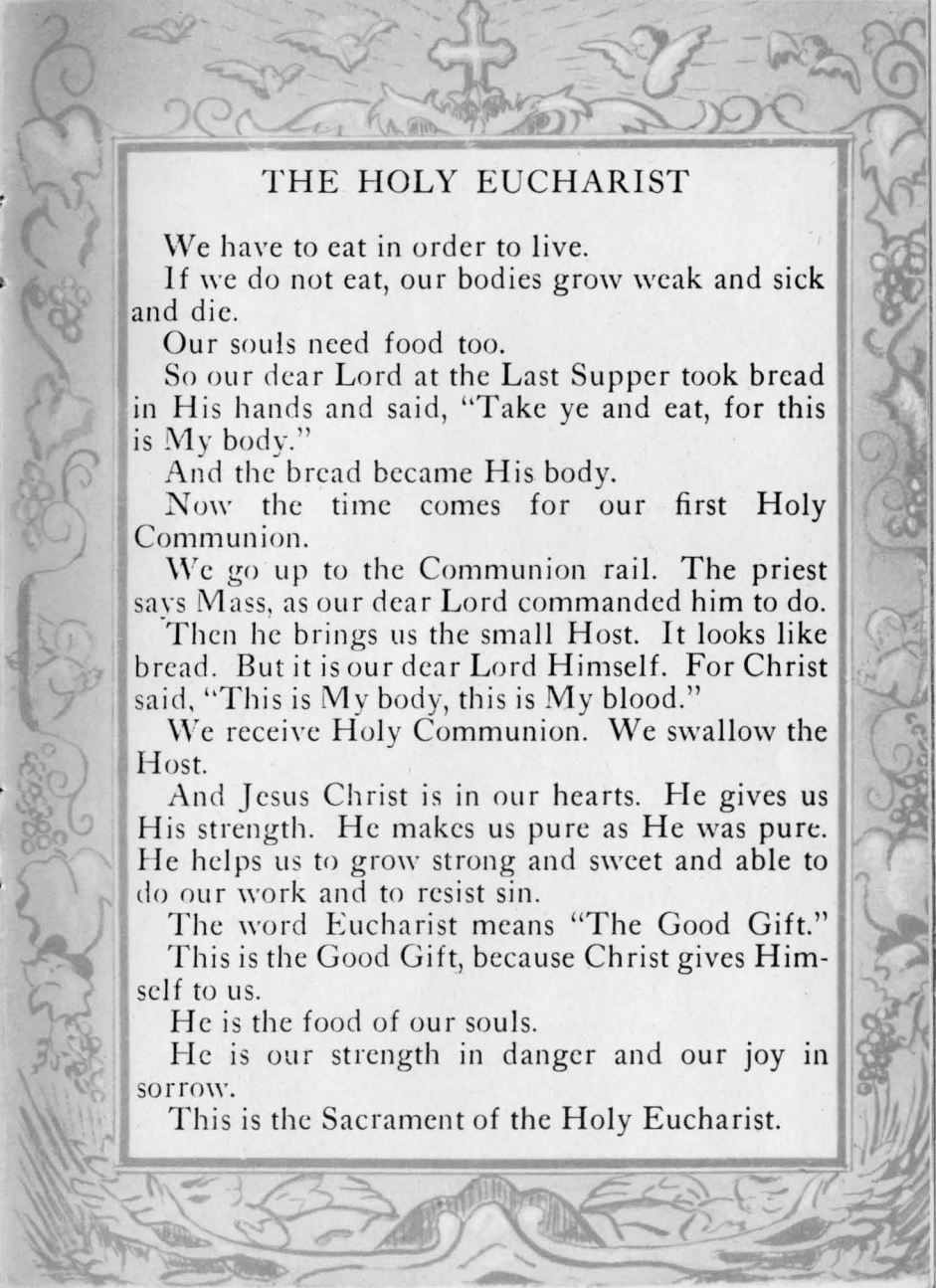
He said, "I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen."

You came out from Confession and said the penance which he gave you.

And the sin was gone from your soul. Your soul was well and strong again.

God had forgiven you your sins. He said, "Once more, you are My dear child."

That was the Sacrament of Penance.



THE HOLY EUCHARIST

We have to eat in order to live.

If we do not eat, our bodies grow weak and sick and die.

Our souls need food too.

So our dear Lord at the Last Supper took bread in His hands and said, "Take ye and eat, for this is My body."

And the bread became His body.

Now the time comes for our first Holy Communion.

We go up to the Communion rail. The priest says Mass, as our dear Lord commanded him to do.

Then he brings us the small Host. It looks like bread. But it is our dear Lord Himself. For Christ said, "This is My body, this is My blood."

We receive Holy Communion. We swallow the Host.

And Jesus Christ is in our hearts. He gives us His strength. He makes us pure as He was pure. He helps us to grow strong and sweet and able to do our work and to resist sin.

The word Eucharist means "The Good Gift."

This is the Good Gift, because Christ gives Himself to us.

He is the food of our souls.

He is our strength in danger and our joy in sorrow.

This is the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.



"Go to confession."



"And Jesus Christ is in our hearts."



HOLY ORDERS

God says, "I want fine young men to help My dear Son, Jesus Christ, say Mass.

"I want strong young men to give the Sacraments to My people.

"I want wise young men to preach and teach My children."

When our dear Lord was on earth, He chose young men like these. He called them His Apostles and Disciples.

At the Last Supper, He said the First Mass and gave the First Communion.

And then He made these young men His first priests.

Today and always, other fine, strong, wise young men ask Christ to let them be priests too.

They study long and hard. They try to be very good. They leave their homes in order to work for souls.

Then one day, the Bishop comes. He lays his hands upon their heads.

He gives them the power to say Mass. He gives them the power to forgive sins in Confession. He orders them to preach and teach and do good to everyone.

He makes them priests of Jesus Christ.

This is the Sacrament of Holy Orders.



MATRIMONY

When your Mother and Father were young, they grew to love each other very much.

They wanted to be together as long as they lived. They wanted to have a lovely family.

So they came to the altar. The priest met and blessed them.

Your Father said that he wanted your Mother to be his wife.

Your Mother said that she wanted your Father to be her husband.

And they joined their hands and were married.

Later on, you were born. And perhaps you had brothers and sisters too.

Your Mother and Father became your parents. With God to help them, they brought children into the world.

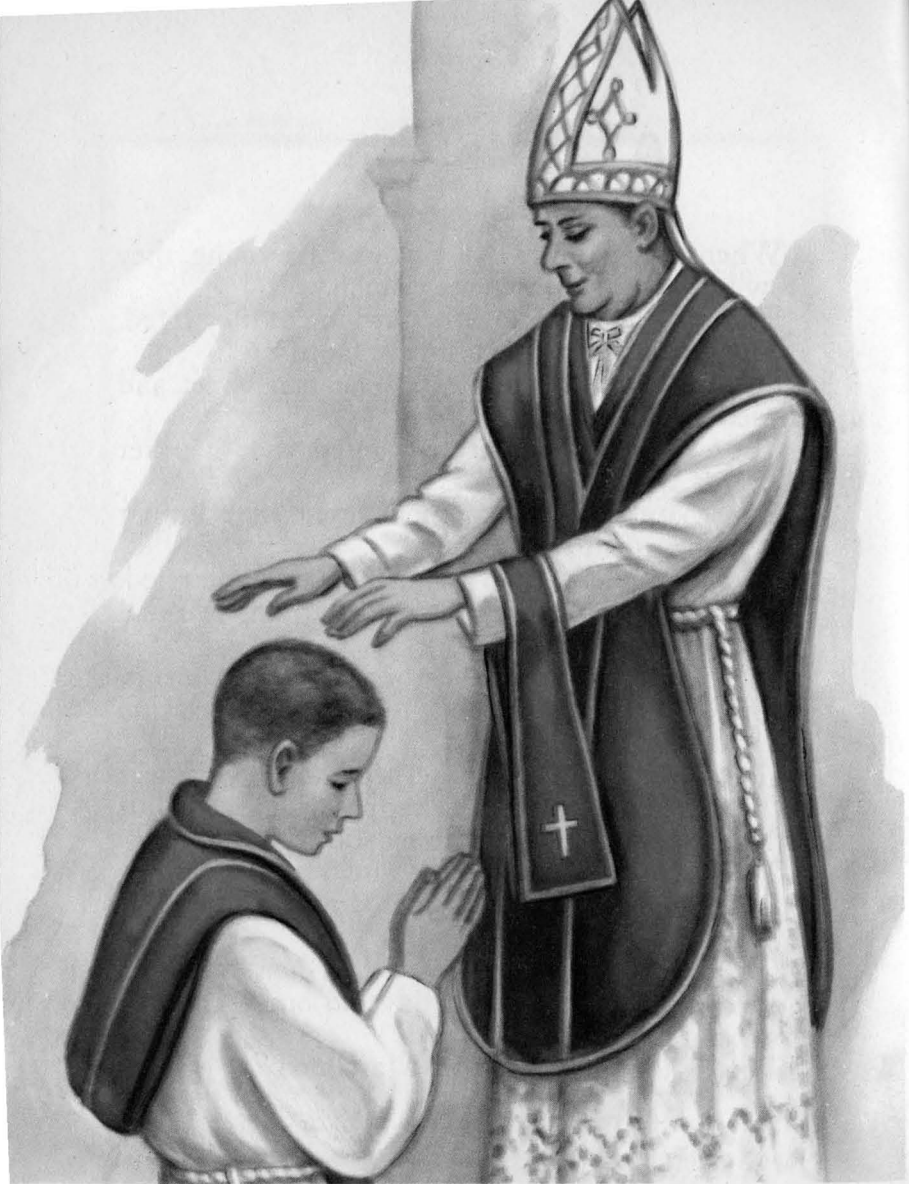
God loved them. God helped them. God was with them to make their life happy. For God wants little children born into the world.

They are His children too and He loves them.

So He blesses Fathers and Mothers and their children.

He gives them help to make their homes happy, to love each other all their days, to build a happy home and have a happy family.

This is the Sacrament of Matrimony.



The Bishop lays his hands upon his head.



"And they joined their hands and were married."



EXTREME UNCTION

Extreme is the word that means last.

Unction is the word that means rubbing with oil. Some day we shall grow very sick. We shall know that soon we must die. That may come at the end of a long life. That may happen very soon.

At once we send for the priest.

He rubs our hands and feet with oil. He prays over us. He asks God to take us safely to heaven. He tells the devil, who is our enemy, to run away and not to harm us.

And then wonderful things happen to our soul. Sin is removed from it.

Our soul, even if our body is weak, becomes very strong.

God is with us to give us His help.

The saints gather round us to help us safely through death into eternity.

Usually, we receive Holy Communion too, so that Christ will be with us as we go into the next world.

Sometimes sick people get well and start life over again.

But whatever happens, Extreme Unction makes us strong. It takes us safely into the presence of God. It helps us to win a happy place in heaven.



LIFE FOR YOUR BODY AND YOUR SOUL

God takes care of you all your life. He watches over both your body and your soul.

Life was given to your body when you were born.

Your soul received God's life at Baptism.

When you grow up a little, you start going to school. And God gives you new strength in Confirmation.

If your body is sick or hurt, the doctor heals you with medicine.

If your soul sins, the priest heals you in the Sacrament of Penance.

Your body cannot live without food and drink.

Your soul is fed with Holy Communion, which is the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

When you grow up, you start your work in life.

If you are a boy and very lucky, you may start your work as a priest through Holy Orders.

Young men and women marry and become Fathers and Mothers.

In the Sacrament of Matrimony, they receive the grace to be good Fathers and Mothers and to be happy all their lives.

At the end of our lives we die. And Extreme Unction is given to us so that we will die happily and live with God forever in heaven.

These are the Seven Great Gifts of God.

These are the Seven Sacraments.



"At once we send for the priest."



