A Biblical and Symbolic Look at the Sacraments of Christian Initiation

Part 1

Each of the Sacraments incorporates concrete objects and actions as symbols. Begin to examine some of these symbols by answering the following questions:

**1.** Name at least four uses for, or characteristics of, water. How might these symbolically relate to the Sacrament of Baptism?

**2.** Name at least three uses for, or characteristics of, oil. How might these symbolically relate to the Sacrament of Confirmation?

**3.** Name three uses for, or characteristics of, bread and wine. How might these symbolically relate to the Sacrament of the Eucharist?

Part 2

Read each Scripture passage below carefully. Look for an object or action that is (or became) a symbol. Then explain the symbol’s meaning in the celebration of the Sacrament. Use the sample as a model.

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| Baptism |
| Scripture Passage | Symbolic Object or Action in Scripture  | Explanation of the Symbol as It Relates to Baptism |
| **Genesis 6:11–22**God tells Noah to build an ark to save himself, his offspring, and animals from a flood. | The Flood is a water event of destruction and death. Symbolically, the Flood can indicate how sin leads to death. | Baptism is death to an old life of sin and rebirth to a new life in Christ, using water. |
| **Exodus 14:21–25** |  |  |
| **Joshua 3:14–17** |  |  |
| **John 4:4–15** |  |  |

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| Confirmation |
| Scripture Passage | Symbolic Object or Action in Scripture | Explanation of the Symbol as It Relates to Confirmation |
| **1 Samuel 16:11–13** |  |  |
| **Isaiah 61:1–2** |  |  |
| **John 3:3–8** |  |  |
| **Acts 2:1–13** |  |  |
| Eucharist |
| Scripture Passage | Symbolic Object or Action in Scripture | Explanation of the Symbol as It Relates to the Eucharist |
| **Exodus 12:14–20** |  |  |
| **Matthew 14:13–21** |  |  |
| **Luke 22:14–20** |  |  |
| **John 6:30–35** |  |  |
| **1 Corinthians 11:23–26** |  |  |