



PC · COMMON PASTORAL VISITS

Holy Sealing preparation visit

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this visitation is to prepare the member (or the parents/guardians of a child) for the sacrament of Holy Sealing in a thoughtful, informed, and spiritually grounded way. Holy Sealing is an act of God through which the rebirth out of water and Spirit is completed and the believer is sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit. Because of the depth and lifelong significance of this sacrament, adequate preparation is essential.

This visit provides an opportunity for you to:

- Explain the meaning and effects of Holy Sealing as taught in Scripture and our Catechism, including sealing as God's act of ownership, assurance, and promise of redemption.
- Help the member understand what God grants in Holy Sealing: the enduring indwelling of the gift of the Holy Spirit, childhood in God, adoption as an heir with Christ, and the calling to become a firstfruit in preparation for the return of Jesus Christ.
- Clarify the connection between the sacraments, showing how Holy Sealing completes what was begun in Holy Baptism with water and nourished through Holy Communion.
- Invite personal reflection and faith affirmation, allowing the member (or parents) to express questions, hopes, and concerns, and to consciously affirm belief in the triune God, the gospel of Jesus Christ, and the Apostle ministry.
- Address the responsibilities and commitments that accompany Holy Sealing, including living a life guided by the Holy Spirit, participating in word and sacrament, growing in sanctification, and confessing Christ in daily life.
- Prepare the member for the liturgical act itself so that they understand when Holy Sealing occurs in the divine service, the question that will be asked by the Apostle, the laying on of hands and prayer, and the significance of receiving Holy Communion afterward as an expression of fellowship.
- For parents or guardians, to confirm their responsibility to raise their child in the New Apostolic faith until confirmation, nurturing faith, obedience, and openness to the Holy Spirit.

Ultimately, the visit seeks to ensure that Holy Sealing is received not merely as a formal act, but as a conscious step of faith and surrender to the triune God. The member should leave the visit with clarity, peace, and joyful anticipation, aware that Holy Sealing marks the beginning of a deeper, Spirit-filled life oriented toward Christ's return and eternal fellowship with Him.

HOLY SEALING AS AN ACT OF GOD AND A SACRAMENT

Holy Sealing is a sacrament and an act of God through which the believer receives the gift of the Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands and prayer of an Apostle. What God began in Holy Baptism is completed in Holy Sealing: the rebirth out of water and Spirit.

Possible questions for introspection and discussion with the believer:

- What does it mean to you that Holy Sealing is God acting upon you, not something you earn?
- How do you understand the connection between your baptism and Holy Sealing?
- Why do you think God gives this sacrament only once?

(For parents)

- How do you understand your responsibility in bringing your child to receive this sacrament?

Foundational readings for your review:

John 3:5, 2 Corinthians 5:17 & James 1:18; Catechism 8.3 & 8.3.8

**Holy Sealing is not a human decision alone, but a divine gift.
It calls for humility, gratitude, and readiness to allow God's work to
unfold in your life (or in the life of your child).**

THE MEANING OF "SEALING" - BELONGING, ASSURANCE, AND HOPE

The term *sealing* expresses ownership, authenticity, protection, and God's authority. Through Holy Sealing, God marks the believer as His own, showing acceptance, granting the possibility of salvation and future redemption.

Possible questions for introspection and discussion with the believer:

- What gives you comfort in knowing that you belong to God?
- How does being “sealed” affect how you view your identity and future?

Foundational readings for your review:

Ephesians 1:11–14 & 2 Corinthians 1:21–22; Catechism 8.3.1

**Holy Sealing assures you that God knows you by name,
claims you as His own, and desires your salvation.
This assurance invites trust and perseverance in faith.**

THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT – GOD SHARING HIS NATURE

In Holy Sealing, God shares His nature with the believer. It is not the Person of the Trinity, but God’s power, life, love, and presence. The gift of the Holy Spirit dwells permanently within the believer.

Possible questions for introspection and discussion with the believer:

- In what ways do you hope the gift of the Holy Spirit will guide your life?
- Where do you need strength to overcome sin or grow spiritually?
- How do you recognize His gift working in your conscience?

(For parents)

- How will you help your child learn to listen for the Holy Spirit’s guidance?

Foundational readings for your review:

Romans 5:5 & John 14:16-17; Catechism 3.5.2 & 8.3.9

**The gift of the Holy Spirit desires room to work and develop.
A sealed life means daily openness to God’s guidance, correction,
and encouragement.**

REBIRTH, CHILDHOOD IN GOD, AND ADOPTION

Holy Sealing completes the rebirth out of water and Spirit and establishes *childhood in God*. The believer is adopted into God's family and becomes an heir with Christ.

Possible questions for introspection and discussion with the believer:

- What does it mean to you to call God "Father"?
- How does knowing you are an heir with Christ affect your priorities?
- How does childhood in God influence how you live and worship?

Foundational readings for your review:

Romans 8:14-18 & Galatians 4:1-7; Catechism 8.3 & 8.3.9

Childhood in God is both a gift and a calling. It invites a life shaped by trust, obedience, and hope in Christ's return.

CALLING TO BECOME A FIRSTLING AND PREPARATION FOR CHRIST'S RETURN

Through Holy Sealing, the believer receives the prerequisite to become a firstling; those whom God prepares through the Apostle ministry for the return of Christ and the kingdom of peace.

Possible questions for introspection and discussion with the believer:

- What does the return of Christ mean personally to you?
- How does this calling shape your daily decisions and faith life?
- Are you willing to align your life with this hope?

Foundational readings for your review:

Revelation 14:1-5, Revelation 19:6-8 & 1 Peter 2:9-10; Catechism 8.3 & 8.3.9

Holy Sealing is not an end point but a beginning. It calls you to live with watchful and faithful longing for Christ's return.

COMMITMENT, CONFESSION OF FAITH, AND LITURGICAL ACT

Holy Sealing involves a confession of faith and a conscious commitment to follow Jesus Christ through word and sacrament.

Possible questions for introspection and discussion with the believer:

- Do you believe and confess the creed and Articles of Faith?
- Are you willing to follow Christ actively and faithfully?
- Do you understand the two questions above that you will be asked by the Apostle?

Foundational readings for your review:

Matthew 10:32 & Romans 10:9-10; Catechism 2.4 & 8.3.5

Responding “Yes” is a confession of faith and trust. It expresses willingness to live in obedience, fellowship, and hope until Christ returns.

CLOSING THOUGHTS:

End the visit with prayer, invite remaining questions, and briefly walk through:

- The order of the divine service
 - Holy Sealing takes place after the absolution and the Eucharistic prayer.
 - The Apostle addresses those to become sealed.
 - The vow is to profess their faith and vow to follow Christ.
 - There is a prayer following the vow.
 - The gift of the Holy Spirit is dispensed by the gesture of the laying on of hands as a visible sign.
 - This visible act is accompanied with the blessing.
 - After the Apostle has conveyed congratulations to those who have been sealed, they can return to their seats.

This ensures peace, clarity, and joyful anticipation of receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit.