

## Embrace the promise of Christ's return: *Holy Sealing*

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

#### Facilitator Notes:

- Midweek Experience Curriculum videos and For Your Journey episodes can be found on the [NAC USA YouTube](#) channel *and* in the [NAC USA mobile app](#)

#### I wonder...

- What is Holy Sealing?
- Why should someone get sealed?
- What does 'rebirth out of water and Spirit' mean?

#### I believe...

- Holy Sealing is the sacrament whereby the believer receives the gift of the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands and prayer of an Apostle. (Catechism Q&A question 515)
- A believing and baptized soul should be sealed because in Holy Sealing, the believer is enduringly filled with the Holy Spirit and God thereby allows the believer to share in His being. Holy Sealing completes the rebirth out of water and Spirit. (Catechism Q&A question 530)
- The two sacraments of Holy Baptism with water and Holy Sealing together comprise the rebirth out of water and Spirit. Through these sacraments, God creates a new creation. The human being has been called to be a firstling. (Catechism Q&A question 528, 530)

#### Materials:

- IGNITE Bible
- Catechism Q&A
- Something to play a video clip with (computer, TV, tablet, phone, etc.)
- Chartpaper or whiteboard/markers

#### References:

- Bible: John 3:1-8, Acts 2:38, 8:14-17, 19:1-6, 2 Corinthians 5:5, Ephesians 1:13-14, James 1:18
- Catechism Q&A questions: 204, 472, 481, 490, 494, 500, 505, 515-530
- 8<sup>th</sup> Article of Faith (Articles of Faith are found on page 251 of the Catechism Q&A)
- Nac.today article
  - ["The Pledge of Divine Inheritance For All"](#)
- Midweek Experience Curriculum
  - [June 2019 – Session 2 – The Holy Spirit and the Sacraments](#)
- For Your Journey
  - [Episode 50 – The gift of the Holy Spirit](#)

### PRE DISCUSSION MESSAGE TO PARENTS AND STUDENT (TO BE SENT VIA EMAIL OR TEXT)

Have you purchased anything lately that comes with a guarantee or warranty? Join us tomorrow for small group at \_\_\_\_\_ where we'll be discussing a guarantee.

### POST DISCUSSION MESSAGE TO PARENTS (TO BE SENT VIA EMAIL OR TEXT)

#### Facilitator Notes:

- Please feel free to add local information and customize as necessary
- Consider including a link to one of the videos listed in the "References" section above.

Dear Parents,

This week the "I wonder..." questions were about Holy Sealing. It was explained that Holy Sealing completes the rebirth of water and Spirit started in Holy Baptism. This rebirth gives the guarantee of the opportunity of salvation. We don't have a 'ticket' to salvation and just wait like at a bus stop. We must strive to continually transform our nature using Jesus as our example to help prepare us for Christ's return.

As always, if you have any question about the topic, feel free to contact us.  
Your Youth Leaders

### SUNDAY SERMON REFLECTIONS (up to 10 minutes)

**Facilitator Notes:**

- Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week.

- What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday's sermon?
- What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn?
- So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?
- Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

### HOOK (up to 10 minutes)

**Facilitator Notes:**

- Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week.
- Consider writing the responses on the chartpaper or whiteboard.

- How are you and how are you feeling today?
- Who would like to share their point to ponder or call to action from last week?
- Following up from the pre discussion message: Ask the students if they've purchased, or received, anything recently that comes with a guarantee or warranty?
- What is the purpose of a guarantee?
- If needed, review with the students what a guarantee is:
  - Noun - *a formal promise or assurance (typically in writing) that certain conditions will be fulfilled, especially that a product will be repaired or replaced if not of a specified quality and durability. The guarantee can be voided, however, if the product is not used for the purpose intended, or not maintained (e.g., oil changes for an automobile motor).*
- Explain that in this small group, we'll be discussing the guarantee of the opportunity of salvation, and specifically the sacrament of Holy Sealing.

### SET THE STAGE (1 minute)

**Facilitator Notes:**

- Preview the "I wonder" questions with the students.

**I wonder...**

- What is Holy Sealing?
- Why should someone get sealed?
- What does 'rebirth out of water and Spirit' mean?

## LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

### Facilitator Notes:

Continue the lesson by saying something like: **before we explore the sacrament of Holy Sealing, what can you tell me about sacraments as a whole, and the other 2 sacraments of the New Apostolic Church?**

Summarize and/or correct any misunderstandings with these previous "I believe..." statements:

- Sacraments
  - Sacraments are fundamental acts of grace bestowed by God on a human being; sacraments are essential for salvation, at least until the day of the Lord. (Catechism Q&A question 472)
- Holy Baptism
  - Through Holy Baptism with water a fundamental change in the relationship between a human being and God comes into being. Through the washing away of original sin, the baptized is led out of his original state of remoteness from God and enters the proximity of God. Through baptism, a person becomes a Christian. (Catechism Q&A question 481)
  - Holy Baptism with water signifies the end of a life in remoteness from God and the beginning of life in Christ. It imparts strength to wage the battle against sin. (Catechism Q&A question 490)
- Holy Communion
  - Holy Communion is celebrated in every divine service because it sustains human beings in their fellowship of life with Jesus Christ. (Q&A question 505)
  - Jesus instituted Holy Communion with His Apostles in the Last Supper. (Catechism Q&A question 494)
  - Those who partake in Holy Communion thereby profess their belief in the death, resurrection, and return of Jesus Christ. (Catechism Q&A question 500)

**Holy Sealing is the third and final sacrament of the New Apostolic Church.**

### Student Question #1 What is Holy Sealing?

- Allow the students to share their thoughts on what they understand Holy Sealing to be.
- Summarize, or correct if needed, with the definition from the Catechism Q&A
  - Holy Sealing is the sacrament whereby the believer receives the gift of the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands and prayer of an Apostle. (Catechism Q&A question 515)
- Consider watching an excerpt from the Midweek Experience Curriculum – [June 2019 Session 2 – The Holy Spirit and the Sacraments](#)
  - The excerpt to highlight is 4:04-5:14 (Starts with "In the sacrament of Holy Sealing..." and ends with "...transform into the nature of Christ.")

### Student Question #2 What is the difference between the Holy Spirit and the gift of the Holy Spirit?

- Consider playing the entire For Your Journey – [Episode 50 – The gift of the Holy Spirit.](#)

- Midweek Experience Curriculum videos can be found on the [NAC USA YouTube](#) channel *and* in the [NAC USA mobile app](#)
- Depending on time, you can show the entire Midweek Experience Curriculum video or just the highlighted excerpt.
- For Your Journey episodes can be found on the [NAC USA YouTube](#)

channel and in the [NAC USA mobile app](#)

- Please emphasize the distinction between the Holy Spirit as a Person of the Trinity, and the gift of the Holy Spirit imparted in Holy Sealing.

- Either after the episode, or if the episode isn't shown, summarize and/or correct any misunderstandings with the explanation from the Catechism Q&A.
  - A distinction must be made between the Holy Spirit as a person of the Godhead (Holy Trinity) and the Holy Spirit as a gift of God. The Holy Spirit as a gift of God is a power that emanates from the triune God. The believer who receives this gift is at the same time filled with the love of God. Baptised individuals who receive the gift of God, thereby also receive childhood in God. (Catechism Q&A question 204)

#### **Student Question #3 Why should someone get sealed?**

- A believing and baptized soul should be sealed because in Holy Sealing, the believer is enduringly filled with the Holy Spirit and God thereby allows the believer to share in His being. Holy Sealing completes the rebirth out of water and Spirit. (Catechism Q&A question 530)

#### **Student Question #4 What does 'rebirth out of water and Spirit' mean?**

- The two sacraments of Holy Baptism with water and Holy Sealing together comprise the rebirth out of water and Spirit. Through these sacraments, God creates a new creation. The human being has been called to be a firstling. (Catechism Q&A question 528, 530)
- Ask a student, or multiple students, to read part of the conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus in John 3:1-8 (not included due to length).
  - Highlight that: In this conversation, Jesus establishes the rebirth out of water and Spirit as a prerequisite to see and enter the kingdom.
- Through rebirth out of water and Spirit the believer is called to be a firstling, or firstfruit, one who will go with the Lord at His coming (rather than at the last judgment). The believer is called to work along with Jesus Christ during the kingdom of peace. (Catechism Q&A question 530)
- Consider asking a student to read a Bible reference containing the term "firstfruit", James 1:18:
  - *Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.*

- The Articles of Faith can be found on page 251 of the Catechism Questions and Answers book.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Article of Faith is the article from the creed that refers to Holy Sealing. Ask a student to read, or recite, the 8<sup>th</sup> Article of Faith.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Article of Faith directly mentions the receiving of the gift of the Holy Spirit and the Apostle ministry.

#### **Student Question #5 What Biblical support is there for being sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit by an Apostle?**

- Ask a student, or multiple students, to read a combination of the following Bible passages:
  - Gift of the Holy Spirit: Acts 2:38
  - Laying on of hands by an Apostle (Peter and John): Acts 8:14-17
  - Laying on of hands by an Apostle (Paul): Acts 19:1-6
    - The gift of the Holy Spirit is granted by God through the laying on of hands and prayer of an Apostle. (Catechism Q&A question 205)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The article about this service, <a href="#">“The Pledge of Divine Inheritance For All”</a> can be found on nac.today</li> </ul>	<p><b>Student Question #6 What does the rebirth out of water and Spirit guarantee?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ From the 2018 Pentecost service in Washington D.C. – Chief Apostle Schneider:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ With our sealing God confirmed His will to save us, the Chief Apostle said. “No power, no spirit can hinder the completion of God’s plan of redemption. Those who are sealed have the guarantee that they will be able to be saved despite their mistakes and weaknesses. Don’t give up. Keep working. You can do it.”</li> <li>○ “God will provide all we need to enter into His kingdom.” The Chief Apostle said that God will never allow anything to prevent our salvation. “However, this guarantee will only work for those who are willing to be prepared for the return of Christ, for those who make it a priority.”</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Ask a student, or multiple students, to read a combination of the following Bible passages:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Spirit as a guarantee: 2 Corinthians 5:5</li> <li>○ Sealed as a guarantee: Ephesians 1:13-14</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>WHAT’S IN IT FOR ME? (up to 10 minutes)</b></p>	
<p><b>Facilitator Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This discussion is included in this semester because the sacrament of Holy Sealing completes the rebirth of water and Spirit and gives us the guarantee of the possibility of salvation. The earliest opportunity of salvation is Christ’s return.</li> <li>The opportunities of salvation will be covered in more detail in the next discussion Eg – Our Future</li> </ul>	<p><b>Close with the “I Wonder...” questions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Ask a student to read an “I Wonder...” question, and invite another student to answer with an “I Believe...” statement or an “I Believe...” statement in their own words.</li> <li>➤ As you review each question and answer, stop and check in with the group to be sure there are no misunderstandings or misconceptions.</li> </ul> <p><b>I wonder...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ What is Holy Sealing?</li> <li>➤ Why should someone get sealed?</li> <li>➤ What does ‘rebirth out of water and Spirit’ mean?</li> </ul> <p><b>I believe...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Holy Sealing is the sacrament whereby the believer receives the gift of the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands and prayer of an Apostle. (Catechism Q&amp;A question 515)</li> <li>➤ A believing and baptized soul should be sealed because in Holy Sealing, the believer is enduringly filled with the Holy Spirit and God thereby allows the believer to share in His being. Holy Sealing completes the rebirth out of water and Spirit. (Catechism Q&amp;A question 530)</li> <li>➤ The two sacraments of Holy Baptism with water and Holy Sealing together comprise the rebirth out of water and Spirit. Through these sacraments, God creates a new creation. The human being has been called to be a firstling. (Catechism Q&amp;A question 528, 530)</li> </ul> <p><b>Point to Ponder...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ What do you have control over that you can guarantee? God has infinite wisdom and power and guarantees the possibility for us to be with Him in perfect and eternal fellowship.</li> </ul> <p><b>A Call to Action...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Memorize the 8<sup>th</sup> Article of Faith</li> </ul>

### Weekly Reflections

What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday's sermon?

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What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn?

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So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

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Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

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**Point to Ponder...**

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**Call to Action...**

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## Embrace the promise of Christ's return: *Holy Sealing*

<p><b>I wonder...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ What is Holy Sealing?</li> <li>➤ Why should someone get sealed?</li> <li>➤ What does 'rebirth out of water and Spirit' mean?</li> </ul>	<p><b>I believe...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Holy Sealing is the sacrament whereby the believer receives the gift of the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands and prayer of an Apostle. (Catechism Q&amp;A question 515)</li> <li>➤ A believing and baptized soul should be sealed because in Holy Sealing, the believer is enduringly filled with the Holy Spirit and God thereby allows the believer to share in His being. Holy Sealing completes the rebirth out of water and Spirit. (Catechism Q&amp;A question 530)</li> <li>➤ The two sacraments of Holy Baptism with water and Holy Sealing together comprise the rebirth out of water and Spirit. Through these sacraments, God creates a new creation. The human being has been called to be a firstling. (Catechism Q&amp;A question 528, 530)</li> </ul>
<p>Bible: John 3:1-8, Acts 2:38, 8:14-17, 19:1-6, 2 Corinthians 5:5, Ephesians 1:13-14, James 1:18          Catechism Q&amp;A questions: 204, 472, 481, 490, 494, 500, 505, 515-530; 8<sup>th</sup> Article of Faith</p>	

### 1. What is Holy Sealing?

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### 2. What is the difference between the Holy Spirit and the gift of the Holy Spirit?

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### 3. Why should someone get sealed?

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### 4. What does 'rebirth out of water and Spirit' mean?

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### 5. What Biblical support is there for being sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit by an Apostle?

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### 6. What does the rebirth out of water and Spirit guarantee?

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**Point to Ponder:** What do you have control over that you can guarantee? God has infinite wisdom and power and guarantees the possibility for us to be with Him in perfect and eternal fellowship.

**Call to Action:** Memorize the 8<sup>th</sup> Article of Faith