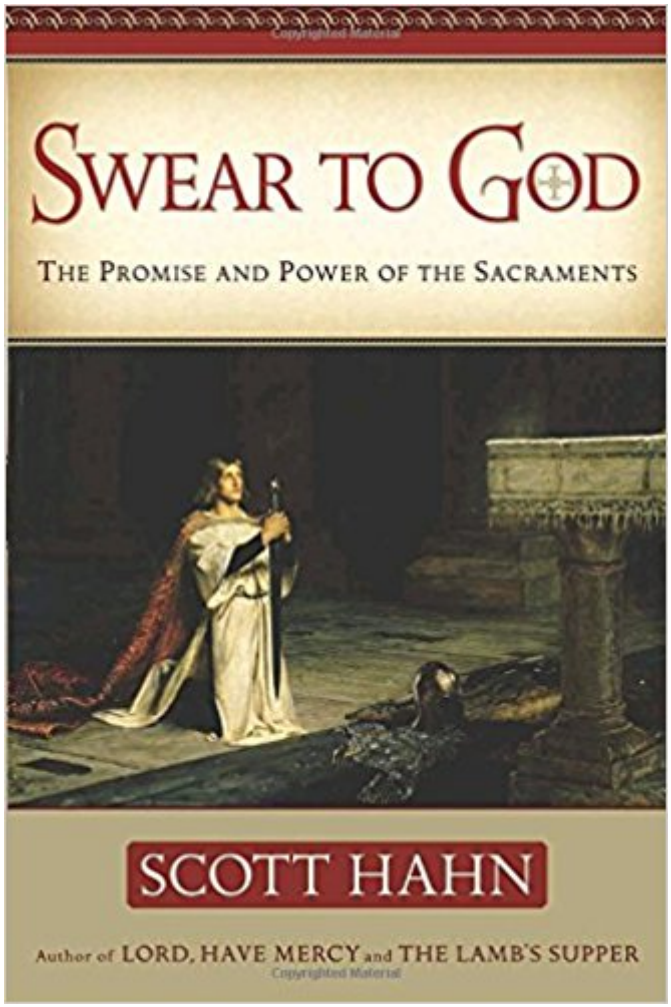
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Swear To God: The Promise And Power Of The Sacraments



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Synopsis

The most solemn, majestic, and beautiful gifts that Jesus Christ gave to the world are His sacraments. He endowed them with unprecedented and unparalleled powerÃ¢â ¬â •power to change lives, save souls, and share GodÃ¢â ¬â„¢s very life. The sacraments are the ordinary means by which God directs the course of each human life and all of world history.The Church celebrates seven sacraments: baptism, Eucharist, confirmation, matrimony, holy orders, confession, and anointing of the sick. Each was established by Jesus for the sake of salvation. When Jesus spoke of the sacraments, He made clear that they were essential: Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God (Jn 3:5) . . . unless you eat of the flesh of the Son of man and drink His blood, you have no life in you (Jn 6: 53).In Swear to God, Dr. Scott Hahn explores the richness of ChristÃ¢â ¬â„¢s sacramentsÃ¢â ¬â •their doctrine, history, symbols, and rituals. Drawing upon the Bible and the ChurchÃ¢â ¬â„¢s tradition, he shows how GodÃ¢â ¬â„¢s covenantsÃ¢â ¬â •with Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, and DavidÃ¢â ¬â •became the driving forces in history. When Jesus came to fulfill all these covenants, He established a new covenant, with greater power than ever before. Christians are GodÃ¢â ¬â„¢s children now. Joined to Christ by baptism, we can already share in the eternal life of the Trinity, a life we hope to know fully in heaven. But heaven is with us, even now, in the sacraments.

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Customer Reviews

Hahn, a convert to Catholicism who is professor of biblical theology at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio, continues his popular expositions on various aspects of the Catholic faith in this

treatise on the church's seven sacraments. Written in the easy style that has opened the depths of Catholic theology to scores of laypeople, Hahn shares how he once regarded sacraments as "boring," but reconsidered that view after a challenge from his wife, Kimberly, while both were still Protestants. In reading the works of the church fathers, Hahn came to see the sacraments as signs of God's covenant with humanity and thus more than mere rituals. When Catholics receive them, he writes, they make a covenant with God that has weighty implications. He explains how in ancient times, parties to covenants would swear a sacred oath, offer a sacrifice and share a meal, all elements contained in the sacraments today. Hahn insists sacraments are based in scripture and makes a convincing case that they were not late additions to Christianity, but were practiced by the early church. He offers personal testimony as well, crediting grace from the sacrament of matrimony with sustaining him and his wife through the difficult period in which he left the Protestant ministry and converted to Catholicism. Catholics in search of a fresh look at their faith will find Hahn's enthusiasm inviting. His frequent references to the Catechism also should make this a helpful resource. Copyright Ã Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Ã¢â ¬Å“This book, easy to read but profound in its implications, draws on the Bible, on Catholic teaching, patristic wisdom, and rabbinical learning to explain the meaning and importance of sacraments. What the author tells of his own discovery and experience of sacramental life is illuminating and heartwarming. It will help Catholics grasp better the wonder and necessity of sacraments in GodÃ¢â ¬â„¢s plan of salvation and allow other Christians to see their significance for the following of Christ.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Francis Cardinal George, OMI, Archbishop of ChicagoÃ¢â ¬Å“As one who has lived with a lifelong realistic understanding of the sacraments, especially of the Holy Eucharist, I found Scott HahnÃ¢â ¬â„¢s journey from CalvinÃ¢â ¬â„¢s devout but symbolic understanding to the traditional realism of the Church Fathers most enlightening. This book will be a big help to Catholics confronted by careless and inaccurate teaching about the sacraments. It will also aid Protestants, who have often lost even the sacramental piety of the Reformation and who are beginning to rediscover the sacraments instituted by Christ.Ã¢â ¬Â•--Father Benedict J. Groeschel, C.F.R., author of In the Presence of Our LordÃ¢â ¬Å“Dr. Hahn has done it once again: he has given us a crisp, clear and compelling look at the very essence of Catholic life, the sacraments. Simply put, Scott believes the sacraments really do work. And he believes that the sacraments are GodÃ¢â ¬â„¢s wok for us, not our work for God.Ã¢â ¬Â•--Most Reverend Timothy M. Dolan, Archbishop of Milwaukee Ã¢â ¬Å“In Swear to

God, Dr. Scott Hahn provides his readers with a fresh, enthusiastic introduction to the theology of Sacraments. His readers will be rewarded not only with clear theological information but also with authentically Catholic inspiration. His pen continues to be a blessing for all who seek a deeper understanding of what the Lord has revealed.Ã¢â ¬Â•--Edward Cardinal Egan, Archbishop of New York

Quite possibly one of the best books on the sacraments I have ever read. The connection of the Seven Sacraments with the Covenants of the Old Testament and the New and Eternal Covenant is presented in a cogent and wonderful way. All Catholics and all protestants can learn a lot from the exegesis given by Scott Hahn.The chapters focusing on marriage are as good an explanation of the Catholic doctrine of Sacramental Matrimony. I reflect that all can hope and pray that Scott Hahn's understanding, which gained a full imprimatur from Holy Mother Church, is held up by the Synod on the Family later this year. Marriage is not a burden that we can dissolve, the sacramental nature of marriage will indeed offer the ability for couples to overcome any struggle.I highly recommend this book. It will enhance your understanding of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church.

I purchased many of Scott Hahn's books. He is a great teacher and one of the worlds top Bible scholars. I had 16 years of Catholic education; from great nuns of St. Joseph, great priest-teachers at a top-rated Philadelphia Catholic high school, and excellent monks and lay professors at a Catholic University. I thought I knew a lot about my religion and the bible. While I was well educated, attending three of Scott Hahn's Scripture study courses at Franciscan University, and taking several online and home study courses, my knowledge and understanding of Scripture is not only broader but far deeper. Thanks Doctor Hahn.

Hahn clearly explains how the sacraments, in addition to being the way we receive grace from God, are spiritual covenants with Him. More importantly, Hahn demonstrates how covenants and oaths have been a central part of the Christian life because they invoke God to witness. After reading Hahn's book, I reflected on the sanctity of marriage, being the covenant that is entered into by man and woman. In the presence of God as their Heavenly witness, a man and woman proclaim their love and commitment to be with each other until death. Asking God to witness your promise explains why marriage cannot be broken, not some simple rule by the Catholic Church that is antiquated or 'out of touch.'

Another good book by Scott Hahn. Not what you would think by the title. Very interesting and educating as he usually is.

Mr. Hahn did it again. One needs to read this book while going over the Sacraments. This is my second time trying to understand all the nuances of the Sacraments. I still can not get it completely, but this book opened my mind to see the Sacraments a little different. Different in a good way. In a way I did not even see before. Swear to God compliments Jacob W. Wood’s book, Speaking the Love of God.

Scott Hahn’s writings on the sacraments providing such clarity on their meaning and what our view should be of them. An excellent book.

You can’t go wrong purchasing a Dr. Hahn book. I bought it as a companion to his on-line study of "The Bible and the Sacraments." Good book" to learn about "Covenants, oaths, sacraments, and grace."

Great addition to my library and study of The Bible and the Sacraments

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