

Chapter 1:
Jesus Christ and the Sacramental Life of the Church
[*The Seven Sacraments* by Rogier van der Weyden]

In this assignment, students will engage with the connection between the Paschal Mystery and the celebration of sacraments in the Church. They will do this through a visio divina exercise with the painting at the head of the chapter.

Visio Divina Script

1. Spend some time examining the painting from the text. Attend to the following questions while viewing the painting:
 - Find the seven sacraments in the painting. What are they? Can you name them?
 - What is the central image in three panels of the altarpiece? What is in the background of that image?
2. Read this paragraph from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (1085):

In the liturgy of the Church, it is principally his own Paschal mystery that Christ signifies and makes present. . . . When his Hour comes, he lives out the unique event of history which does not pass away: Jesus dies, is buried, rises from the dead, and is seated at the right hand of the Father "once for all." His Paschal mystery is a real event that occurred in our history, but it is unique: all other historical events happen once, and then they pass away, swallowed up in the past. The Paschal mystery of Christ, by contrast, cannot remain only in the past, because by his death he destroyed death, and all that Christ is - all that he did and suffered for all men - participates in the divine eternity, and so transcends all times while being made present in them all. The event of the Cross and Resurrection abides and draws everything toward life.

3. Write a short reflection on the following:
 - Choose one sacrament other than the Eucharist and explain how Christ "signifies and makes present" his Paschal Mystery (i.e., his passion, death, and resurrection) in that sacrament.