

ST. ALOYSIUS GONZAGA PARISH

- Catholic Book Discussion Group: *Signs of Life* by Dr. Scott Hahn
- Chapters 10 thru 22 – “Stages of Life”
- Session Six: July 27, 2017

1. **CONFIRMATION:** At the very beginning of his reflection on the Sacrament of Confirmation, Dr. Hahn writes: “Confirmation has been called a ‘sacrament in search of a theology.’” (page 131)
 - What do you remember about your reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation?
 - Why does Hahn say Confirmation searches for a ‘theology’?
 - Why is Confirmation important to you?
2. According to Hahn: “To send the Spirit was Jesus’ stated purpose.” (page 131) He goes on to say: “It is clear from the Acts of the Apostles that Pentecost was an event intended for the entire Church, not just an elite, and not just for a day. It would be extended through time – institutionalized – by the sacraments.” (page 132)
 - How do these two statements “fit together”?
 - How does Confirmation “institutionalize” Pentecost?
3. Confirmation makes it possible for us to “live responsibly within the Church.” (page 132) What does it mean to live within the Church *responsibly*?
4. **MARRIAGE:** Think about these words of Dr. Hahn: “Human marriage, then, was for Israel an earthly image of God’s eternal love.” (page 136) In your own words, what is Hahn teaching us?
5. The Bible is “a book that tells a love story – the story of God’s love for humankind...It begins and ends with a wedding”. (page 136) Why, according to Hahn, is this image so important?
6. Scott Hahn reminds us “in the Eucharist we are made members of the wedding...” (page 141) How? (Hint: re-read what St. Augustine wrote.)
7. **PRIESTHOOD:** The subtitle of our book is “40 Catholic Customs and Their Biblical Roots”. With this in mind, how does Dr. Hahn explain why we, as Catholics, call our clergy “Father”?

8. "Fatherhood was still considered an essential attribute of priestly ministry – even after priesthood had passed out of the family structure." (page 146) Why?

9. "True fatherhood involves the communication of life." (page 147) How do Priests "communicate life" today within the Church and Society?

10. **ANOINTING OF THE SICK:** Dr. Hahn, in his reflection upon the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, insists that our understanding be based on the physical and spiritual Healings of Jesus in the Gospels. (page 149) Why does Hahn put such emphasis upon this? How does it help us understand this Sacrament better?

11. Why "oil"? (page 150) God "made us, and so he knows that we human beings learn through sensible signs and sacraments." (page 151)

12. Another insight of Hahn that helps us understand the Sacrament of the Sick is this: "Anointing helps us transform physical suffering into something more deeply remedial, something truly redemptive." (page 151)) Explain these words of Hahn in your own words?

13. How does the Anointing of the Sick enable Christ, through the Church, to "extend his incarnation – his healing, his salvation – through time and space." (page 152)

14. **EXTRA CREDIT:** What effect has reading, reflecting upon and discussing Dr. Hahn's book, *Signs of Life*, had on your spiritual journey?

15. Final comments, insights, questions, observations...