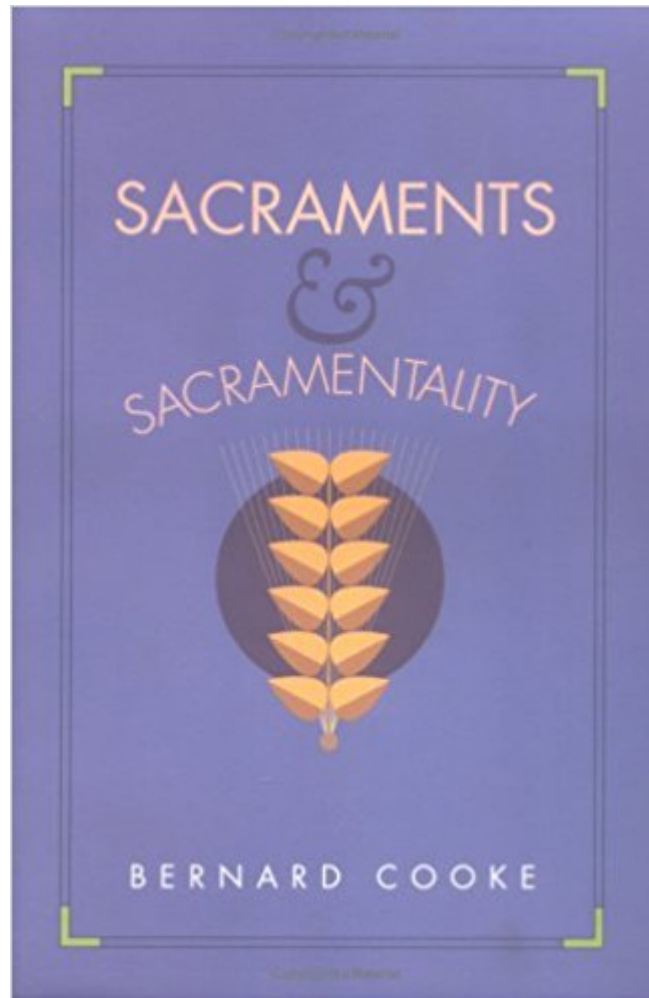




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# Sacraments And Sacramentality



## Synopsis

Noted theologian Bernard Cooke identifies sacramentality as the essence of life, that is, how life itself reveals and makes present the saving love of God. More specifically, he shows how Jesus' life, death, and resurrection transformed life's meaning, and how this Christ-meaning should transform a Christian's experience of life. Cooke proposes that mutual concern and support for one another are the substance of Christian sacraments. He situates friendship as the most basic sacrament of God's saving presence in human life, and shows that sacrament liturgies celebrate initiation into the deepest and most fundamental of all human experiences. This revised and updated edition contains new material on the Eucharist, as well as historical and theological updates on core material. Discussion questions and extensive bibliographic resources make this book ideal for group study and adult education.

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## Customer Reviews

Noted theologian Bernard Cooke identifies sacramentality as the essence of life, that is, how life itself reveals and makes present the saving love of God. More specifically, he shows how Jesus' life, death, and resurrection transformed life's meaning, and how this Christ-meaning should transform a Christian's experience of life. Cooke proposes that mutual concern and support for one another are the substance of Christian sacraments. He situates friendship as the most basic sacrament of God's saving presence in human life, and shows that sacrament liturgies celebrate initiation into the deepest and most fundamental of all human experiences. This revised and updated edition contains new material on the Eucharist, as well as historical and theological updates

on core material. Discussion questions and extensive bibliographic resources make this book ideal for group study and adult education.

## Good Book

I have read several books on the Catholic sacraments and this is still my favorite. It provides an excellent real-life foundation for the meaning of sacrament. If you are looking for magic, this book won't provide it. But if you are looking for a sense of sacrament and Eucharist that is something you can live, this book can help you.

I had to read this book for a class I was taking and found it slow reading. It seemed that I had a hard time understanding some of it because it seemed to deal with external feelings not things associated with a relationship to God and being a sacrament to all people.

I took a class from Dr. Cooke as an undergraduate, when I was working on a degree in theology and religious studies. Having interacted with Cooke in the classroom, I have more respect for the ideas he presents in this text. As a young well educated Catholic I did not initially find Cooke's ideas to be that interesting. However, understanding Cooke's own background and coming to appreciate his experience in the pre-Vatican II Catholic Church enabled me to more fully appreciate this text.

This book made me look at the sacrament liturgies in a completely different way. The human experience is fundamental here, and the idea that we are all one within the experience of Christianity changed how I approached the premise of sacramentality. An absolute must for anyone interested in the role religion may play in the modern human experience.

We used this book for a Catholic Studies course. Fr. Benedict Groeschel summed up the essence of this book quite simply, clearly and succinctly when he wrote, "a wacky New Age return to poorly understood anthropological symbolism" in his book, 'In the Presence of Our Lord : The History, Theology and Psychology of Eucharistic Devotion'. The whole premise of this book is to so confuse the reader in the hopes they will be suckered in to the real objective of this work: to try to convince the reader there is an 8th Sacrament of the Church - "friendship"! Like the title says, run away. Run away fast from this book of, literally, heretical "theology". If I could give it a rating in the negative I would, not because it is convoluted and confusing and contradictory in its writing and premise but

because works like this only serve to take people away from the truth and try to convince them everything is a shade of grey so they become willing accomplices and collaborators of and in the dictatorship of relativism.

This book is great...just great reading. I'll tell all of my friends about it. Reading this book gave me a new understanding of what life is all about. What sacraments are all about. Thank you Mr. Cooke.

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