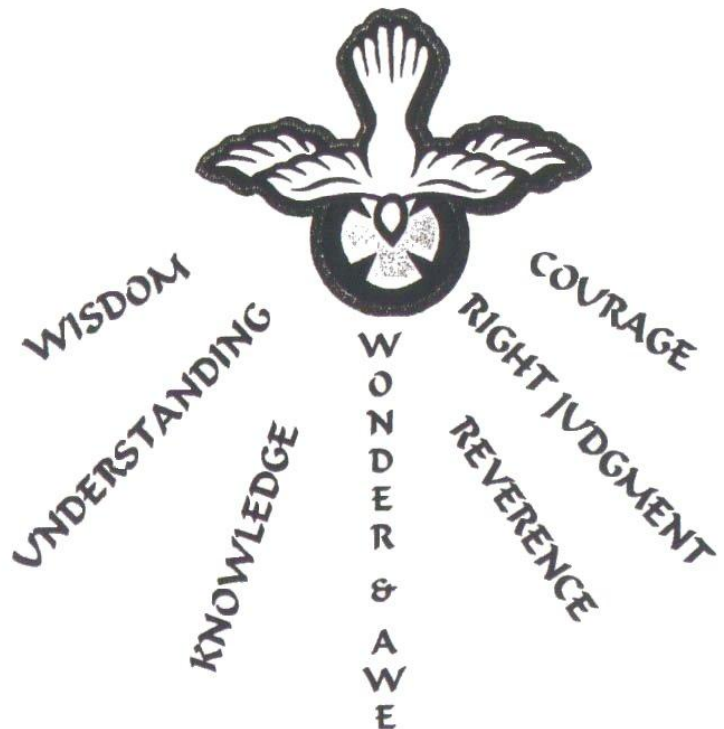


The Sacrament of Confirmation

What is Confirmation?

- ✚ Confirmation is a sacrament that completes the grace of baptism by:
 - ✚ Binding the person more perfectly to the Church.
 - ✚ Giving the person an increase in spiritual strength (an increase in grace).

- ✚ Confirmation allows a Christian to share more completely:
 - ✚ in the mission of Jesus Christ and
 - ✚ in the fullness of the Holy Spirit.



The Matter and Form of the Sacrament



Matter (the physical thing / action):

1. The laying on (or extending) of hands (by the bishop or a delegated priest),
2. Anointing with oil (Sacred Chrism) -- a sign of strength to live and defend the faith, and a sign of consecration to God



Form of the sacrament (the words): “Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit”



The Institution of the Sacrament of Confirmation

The Apostles receive the Holy Spirit

"Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim." (Acts 2:3-4)



Other people receive the Holy Spirit

Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent them Peter and John, who went down and prayed for them, that they might receive the holy Spirit, for it had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. (Acts 8:14-17)



Jesus promises the outpouring of the Holy Spirit



But I tell you the truth, it is better for you that I go. For if I do not go, the Advocate will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.

And when he comes he will convict the world in regard to sin and righteousness and condemnation: sin, because they do not believe in me; righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will no longer see me; condemnation, because the ruler of this world has been condemned. "I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now.

But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth.

He will not speak on his own, but he will speak what he hears, and will declare to you the things that are coming. He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you. Everything that the Father has is mine; for this reason I told you that he will take from what is mine and declare it to you. (Jn 16:7-15)

Who Can Receive This Sacrament?

Requirements for Reception

- ❖ Every baptized person not yet confirmed can receive this sacrament.
- ❖ The age of reason is the reference point for receiving Confirmation in the Latin Rite [Note: In the East Rite Churches Confirmation is administered immediately after Baptism.]
- ❖ In danger of death children should be confirmed even if they have not yet attained the age of discretion

“Sacrament of Christian maturity”

- ❖ Confirmation is sometimes called the "sacrament of Christian maturity."
- ❖ Not to be confused with the age of natural growth:
 - The age of the body does not determine the age of the soul.
 - Many children, through the strength of the Holy Spirit they have received, have bravely fought for Christ even to the shedding of their blood. [Thomas Aquinas]

To Receive Confirmation:

- ❖ One must be in a state of grace.
- ❖ One must have the intention of receiving the sacrament.
- ❖ One must profess the faith.
- ❖ One must be prepared to assume the role of disciple and witness to Christ.
- ❖ One should receive the sacrament of Penance.


Confirmation sponsor:

- ❖ Provides spiritual help
- ❖ Can be one of the baptismal godparents – shows unity between the two sacraments.

The Minister of Confirmation

- ❖ In the Latin Rite, the ordinary minister of Confirmation is the bishop.
- ❖ If the need arises, the bishop may grant the faculty of administering Confirmation to priests.
- ❖ If a Christian is in danger of death, any priest can give him Confirmation

The Effects of Confirmation

1. Completes (i.e., perfects, increases, deepens) the “sanctifying grace” we received at baptism.
 2. Increases within us the gifts of the Holy Spirit:
 - wisdom, understanding, right judgment (prudence),
 - courage (fortitude), knowledge,
 - reverence (piety),
 - fear of the Lord (fear in God’s presence).
 3. Strengthens our bond with the Church;
 4. Gives us a special strength (power) to :
 - to spread and defend the faith by word and action,
 - to confess the name of Christ boldly.
 5. Imprints on the soul an indelible spiritual mark
 - a sign of belonging to Christ,
 - an enrollment in Christ’s service for ever,
 - a promise of divine protection in the great schatological trial.
-  In response to increased grace (this special strength):
- ❖ A person is more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed...