

The Sacrament of Confirmation

From the Order of Confirmation (OC)

*United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (2015)
The Rite of Confirmation*

“Those who have been baptized continue on the path of Christian Initiation through the Sacrament of Confirmation, by which they receive the outpouring of the Holy Spirit whom the Lord sent upon the Apostles at Pentecost.” (OC 1)

“By this gift of the Holy Spirit the faithful are more fully confirmed to Christ and are strengthened with the power to bear witness to Christ and are strengthened with the power to bear witness to Christ for building up his Body in faith and charity. They are marked with the character or seal of the Lord in such a way that the Sacrament of Confirmation cannot be repeated.” (OC 2)

“...Let us pray to God the almighty Father for these, his adopted sons and daughters, already born again to eternal life in Baptism, that he will graciously pour out the Holy Spirit upon them to confirm them with his abundant gifts, and through this anointing confirm them more fully to Christ.” (OC 24)

“Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who brought these your servants to new birth by water and the Holy Spirit...send upon them O Lord, the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete; give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and fortitude, the spirit of knowledge and piety; fill them with the spirit of fear of the Lord.” (OC 25)

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church

- ✚ “Confirmation perfects Baptismal grace” (CCC, 1316)
- ✚ “The fruit of Baptism, or baptismal grace, is a rich reality that includes forgiveness of original sin and all personal sins, birth into the new life by which man becomes an adoptive son of the Father, a member of Christ and a temple of the Holy Spirit.” (CCC, 1279) “Baptism, the Eucharist, and the sacrament of Confirmation together constitute the sacraments of Christian initiation, whose unity must be safeguarded. It must be explained to the faithful that the

reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace.” (CCC, 1285)

- ✚ “By Confirmation Christians, that is, those who are anointed, share more completely in the mission of Jesus Christ and the fullness of the Holy Spirit with which he is filled, so that their lives may give off ‘*the aroma of Christ*.’” (CCC, 1294; 2 Cor 2:15)

 - ✚ “Christ himself declared that he was marked with his Father’s seal. Christians are also marked with a seal:

 - ✚ This seal of the Holy Spirit marks or total belonging to Christ, our enrollment in his service for ever, as well as the promise of divine protection” (CCC 1296)

 - ✚ “It is evident from its celebration that the effect of the sacrament of Confirmation is the full outpouring of the Holy Spirit as once granted to the apostles on the day of Pentecost.” (CCC 1302)

 - ✚ Confirmation brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace:
 - It unites us more firmly to Christ
 - It increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us
 - It imparts a new sacramental character
 - It endows the person with the spirit of mission
 - It endows the person with the power to witness in word and deed
- From CCC 1303-1305
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- ✚ “Preparation for Confirmation should aim at leading the Christian toward a more intimate union with Christ [understanding of Kerygma] and a more lively familiarity with the Holy Spirit-his actions, his gifts, and his biddings-in order to be more capable of assuming the apostolic responsibilities of Christian life. To this end catechesis for Confirmation should strive to awaken a sense of belonging to the Church of Jesus Christ, the universal Church as well as the parish community.” (CCC, 1309)

FROM SCRIPTURE

The Holy Spirit is never to be separated from the God the Father and God the Son. It is never separated from the Trinity.

The Holy Spirit was present in the creation of the world.

"then the LORD God formed the man^[a] out of the dust of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being."

Genesis 2:7

The Holy Spirit came down upon Mary.

"And the angel said to her in reply, 'The holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.'" Luke 1:35

The fullness of the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus at his baptism by John.

"After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened [for him], and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove [and] coming upon him." (Matthew 3:16)

The Holy Spirit came in a profound way to the disciples at Pentecost.

"When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. ² And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind,^[a] and it filled the entire house in which they were. ³ Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire,^[a] which parted and came to rest on each one of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues,^[a] as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim." Acts 2:1-4

The Holy Spirit is a gift for all who believe. The seal of the Holy Spirit marks our total belonging to Christ (CCC 1296)

"In him you also, who have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and have believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit," (Ephesians 1:13)

