

A Lasting Seal
3rd Year Confirmation Sponsor & Candidate gathering
2nd gathering – Make-up assignment –
DUE before you can schedule your Final Interview

The Point: In the Sacrament of Confirmation we receive a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit that unfolds throughout our lives and strengthens us to live as disciples.

Candidate & Sponsor read the following and answer the reflection handouts

- As one of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation, Confirmation is the completion and perfection of the grace of Baptism.
- Confirmation gives us the Holy Spirit to root in us more deeply our experience of being God's "born again" children.
- Confirmation draws us more definitely into Christ and makes our bond with the Church stronger.
- Confirmation more closely connects us with the mission and work of the Church, making us more capable of giving witness to our faith by the things we say and do.
- The Gifts of the Holy Spirit again poured out on us in Confirmation will bear fruit throughout our lives as disciples if we are open to God's grace and the Holy Spirit's continued action in our lives.
- The spiritual life after Confirmation is the continued call to discipleship.

What is Confirmation's role in our salvation, or in what the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* calls the "economy of salvation" (1092)? The *Catechism* traces Confirmation's integral role from Old Testament prophecies that God's Spirit would come upon the Messiah to the Holy Spirit's descent upon Jesus and presence with him in his ministry. The *Catechism* says, "The Holy Spirit is at work with the Father and the Son from the beginning to the completion of the plan for our salvation" (686). In their "joint mission, the Son and the Holy Spirit are distinct but inseparable" (689).

The Spirit of God is both a gift given in freedom through our history as God's People, and a gift witnessed today in the lives of believers.

Throughout his mission, Jesus alludes to his oneness with the Father and the Holy Spirit (cf., John 6:27, 51, 62-63; John 3:5-8; John 4:10, 14, 23-24; Luke 11:13; and John 14:16-17, 26). Pentecost reveals the special role of the Holy Spirit in the mission of the Church. Confirmation is an important aspect of our continued initiation into this mission, into the adventure of discipleship begun at Baptism.

Call to Discipleship - A Lasting Seal

Those who approach Confirmation come already as “children of light” (Ephesians 5:8), blessed in their Baptism with the gift of the Holy Spirit. Because of their faith-filled openness and desire to grow even more in the love of God, the Sacrament of Confirmation deepens their initiation, anointing them and pouring out in full measure the gift of the Holy Spirit into their hearts (see Romans 5:5). Those confirmed receive the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit to help them grow by cooperating with God’s grace in their lives in various ways. These permanent dispositions—wisdom, understanding, counsel (right judgment), fortitude (courage), knowledge, piety (reverence), and fear of the Lord (wonder and awe)—make us open to the workings of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Confirmation is the completion and perfection of the grace of Baptism; it gives us the Holy Spirit to root in us more deeply our experience of being God’s “born anew” children. Through Confirmation, as with all the sacraments, each in their own unique way, we are drawn into the very life of the Trinity itself. The Father “has given us a new birth into ... an inheritance that is imperishable” (1 Peter 1:3–4), and that “gift” has made us Temples of the Holy Spirit, sharers in the eternal life of God himself. An indication of the decisive nature of Confirmation is the fact that it is a nonrepeatable sacrament, received only once in a lifetime. Tradition speaks of receiving a *character* on the soul—just as is the case at Baptism. God intervenes in a person’s life in a definitive fashion, transforming that person by grace through the gift of his Holy Spirit.

Confirmation draws us more definitely into Christ and makes our bond with the Church stronger. Saint Paul’s letter to the community at Corinth, in which he discusses their membership in the Body of Christ and the unity of the Church, shows how these two effects of Confirmation go hand in hand. The more deeply we are plunged into the mystery of Christ, the more robust is our connection to the Body of Christ, the Church. In every liturgy, the Father sends the Holy Spirit so that we can be brought into communion with Christ, and in doing so become more committed members of his Body. We are spiritually transformed into Christ’s image, forming with all other believers his Body on earth.

Confirmation more closely connects us with the mission and work of the Church, and makes us more capable of giving witness to our faith by the things we say and do. These two effects of Confirmation are also two sides of a single coin. From the very first generation of believers, the Church has recognized the connection that exists between the Gift of the Holy Spirit and the disciples’ enthusiasm for spreading the Gospel to all nations. The Acts of the Apostles records how the Spirit is at work in the Church (just as he had been at work in the ministry of Jesus) in order to bring the Good News to all people. Thus, one of the effects of Confirmation is that we are helped to give witness to our faith, both by what we say and by what we do. The Holy Spirit helps us to find the words—and the courage—to speak out boldly in sharing the Good News with others, explaining and sharing the faith we have in God the Father, in Jesus, and in the Holy Spirit.

The Path of Discipleship

Some people like to consider Confirmation as a graduation, and think, "After Confirmation, I'm done." But actually it's an important milestone on a journey that lasts a lifetime.

- What do you want your lifelong spiritual development to consist of?
- What knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors do you want to develop next?

Living as a Disciple

• **Pray for and use the Gifts**

Throughout our lives, we may depend upon or need one of the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit more than another. For example, when you have to make a tough decision, call on the Gift of wisdom to help you know what is right. Or pray for the Gift of fortitude when you need strength. Look at your life through the lens of the Gifts, and call on them and the Spirit to be there for you.

- **Serve the world** The Gifts of the Holy Spirit are meant to be shared and to help others. You are called to make the world a better place for those in need. Which Gift right now would most inspire you to share the Good News and empower you to make a difference in someone's life?

PRAYER: *Spirit of Life, increase my faith and fill my heart with love for you.*

Person of Faith

Thomas More (1478–1535)

Being a witness to one's beliefs can be difficult; it costs some people their lives. Thomas More was a statesman and scholar, as well as a husband and father. In his book *Utopia*, he wrote in opposition to war, religious intolerance, and misuse of property. But Thomas had the misfortune of being the chancellor of England during the reign of King Henry VIII. The Pope would not grant Henry an annulment of his marriage to Catherine of Aragon so that he could marry Anne Boleyn. Henry declared himself head of the Church in England. This action resulted in a break from the Pope and the Church of Rome. This led to division in the Catholic Church. The king needed Thomas's support in his revolt against the Pope. To defend his beliefs and the Catholic faith, Thomas resigned from his post as chancellor. The king had him arrested anyway. Thomas was sent to the Tower of London, unfairly tried, and convicted of treason. Thomas continued to be faithful to his beliefs and was beheaded for rejecting the English king as head of the Church and as superior to all outside rulers, including the Pope.

Opening Prayer

Leader: We begin in the name of the one God who is in three Persons.

All: [making the Sign of the Cross] In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, amen.

Leader: God of love and hope, send your Spirit to us.

All: Spirit, be with us.

Leader: To be our helper and guide.

All: Spirit, be with us.

Leader: To sustain and strengthen us.

All: Spirit, be with us.

Leader: To direct us on the path of discipleship.

All: Spirit, be with us.

Leader: To comfort us when we are saddened, overwhelmed, or uncertain.

All: Spirit, be with us.

Leader: To rest in our hearts and make us one in love.

All: Spirit, be with us.

Word Scramble

Candidate & Sponsor work in pairs to unscramble the words on the handouts.

Candidate & Sponsor read together the Catholic Resource for Today handout

The Seven Gifts Quiz

Use the statements below, each of which corresponds to one of the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

The seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit are: wisdom, understanding, counsel (right judgment), fortitude (courage), knowledge, piety (reverence), and fear of the Lord (wonder and awe).

- To see as God sees, to evaluate all things from the viewpoint of God. (Answer: wisdom)
- A kind of "intuition" guided by the Holy Spirit that allows us to see deeper meanings and value. (Answer: understanding)
- The Gift that helps us make proper judgments about actions that will lead us closer to or away from God. (Answer: counsel)
- God's special help in being courageous when faced with difficulties or sufferings. (Answer: fortitude)
- This Gift helps us make correct judgments regarding what can harm our spiritual well-being. (Answer: knowledge)
- Giving reverence to God, respecting him, and standing in thankfulness for his loving goodness and for the work of his Son, Jesus. (Answer: piety)
- This Gift helps us deepen our resolve and desire never to offend or be separated from God. It is awareness that our God is a just and loving God to whom we are accountable for our actions. (Answer: fear of the Lord)

Life Experience Questions

Sponsor & Candidate answer the question on handout

A Lasting Seal

Candidate answers the following questions: "What do I need to do in order to improve, deepen, or strengthen my connection to the Church? How can I better live out my Catholic faith in the world?"

Sponsor & Candidate answer the questions with regard to Gift of the Spirit (see handout)

Serve the World

Candidate & Sponsor answer the following questions (see handout)

How can you be Christ-like in the world?

How can you more closely live in the Spirit?

What do you need to stop doing, keep doing, start doing, or do differently in your life so that it reflects your spiritual commitment?

What is one way you can share your faith with others this week?

Closing Prayer

Pray:

*God our Father,
complete the work you have begun
and keep the Gifts of your Holy Spirit
active in the hearts of your people.
Make them ready to live his Gospel
and eager to do his will.
May they never be ashamed
to proclaim to all the world Christ crucified
living and reigning for ever and ever.
Amen.*

("Prayer Over the People" from Rite of Confirmation)

Once you have completed this with your sponsor please turn in the all the following papers with your name on the top for credit, of the make-up session.

If you have any question please contact the confirmation office (951) 781-9855 ext 14.

Word Scramble

3rd yr. Sponsor & Candidate Gathering **Name:** _____

Candidate & Sponsor: unscramble each of the following words

NCOOIFTINARM

TGIIR FI TPS SOEFHT

MWOIDS

EFDOURTTI

DFRE OA LRE HOTF

YPTIE

GUNNIDDENRAST

EKGNDOEWL

LCEOSUN

LIFE EXPERIENCE QUESTION

Name: _____

Sponsor and Candidate answer the following question

- 1. What the world needs now is...**

- 2. A gift I have to offer that will help my family is...**

- 3. A gift I have to offer that will help my community is...**

- 4. A gift I have to offer that will help my parish is...**

- 5. A gift I have to offer that will help my world is...**

- 6. This past week, I caught a glimpse of God at work when I...**

- 7. The first thing that comes to mind when I hear the name Holy Spirit is...**

For the following gifts of the Holy Spirit, reflect and answer the questions for each gift.

Name: _____

Wisdom

In What ways can this Gift help us grow?

What is the opposite of this Gift? How can we recognize it?

Why is this Gift Necessary?

Understanding

In What ways can this Gift help us grow?

What is the opposite of this Gift? How can we recognize it?

Why is this Gift Necessary?

Right Judgment - Counsel

In What ways can this Gift help us grow?

What is the opposite of this Gift? How can we recognize it?

Why is this Gift Necessary?

Courage - Fortitude

Name: _____

In What ways can this Gift help us grow?

What is the opposite of this Gift? How can we recognize it?

Why is this Gift Necessary?

Knowledge

In What ways can this Gift help us grow?

What is the opposite of this Gift? How can we recognize it?

Why is this Gift Necessary?

Reverence - Piety

In What ways can this Gift help us grow?

What is the opposite of this Gift? How can we recognize it?

Why is this Gift Necessary?

Wonder and Awe - Fear of the Lord

Name: _____

In What ways can this Gift help us grow?

What is the opposite of this Gift? How can we recognize it?

Why is this Gift Necessary?

Serve the World

Candidate & Sponsor answer the following questions.

How can you be Christ-like in the world?

How can you more closely live in the Spirit?

What do you need to stop doing, keep doing, start doing, or do differently in your life so that it reflects your spiritual commitment?

What is one way you can share your faith with others this week?