

# The Sacrament of Confirmation



# What is confirmation?

- Confirmation is one of the three sacraments of **initiation**.

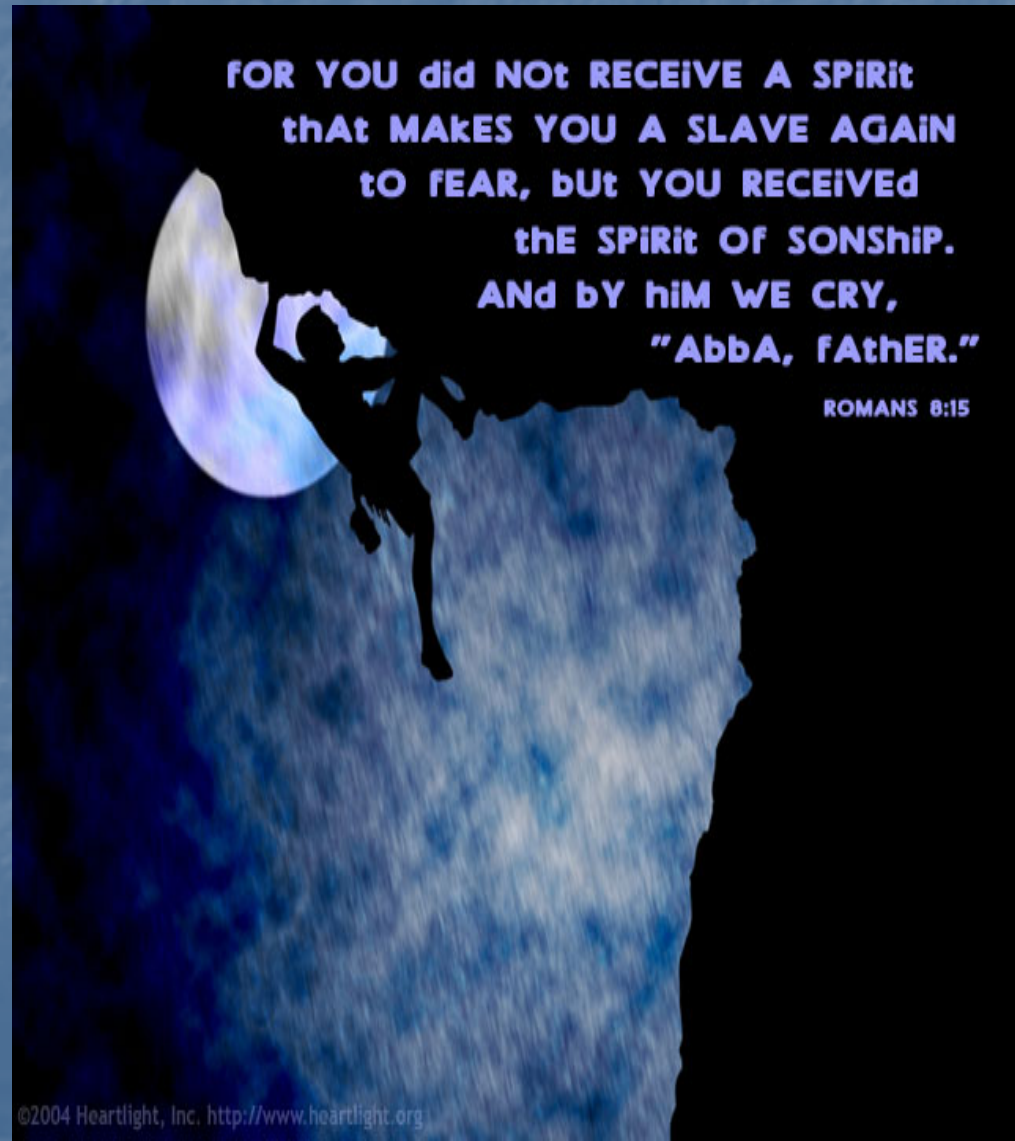
Live by  
the Spirit,  
and you  
will not  
gratify  
the desires  
of the  
sinful nature.

• Galatians 5:16



# Misconceptions about Confirmation

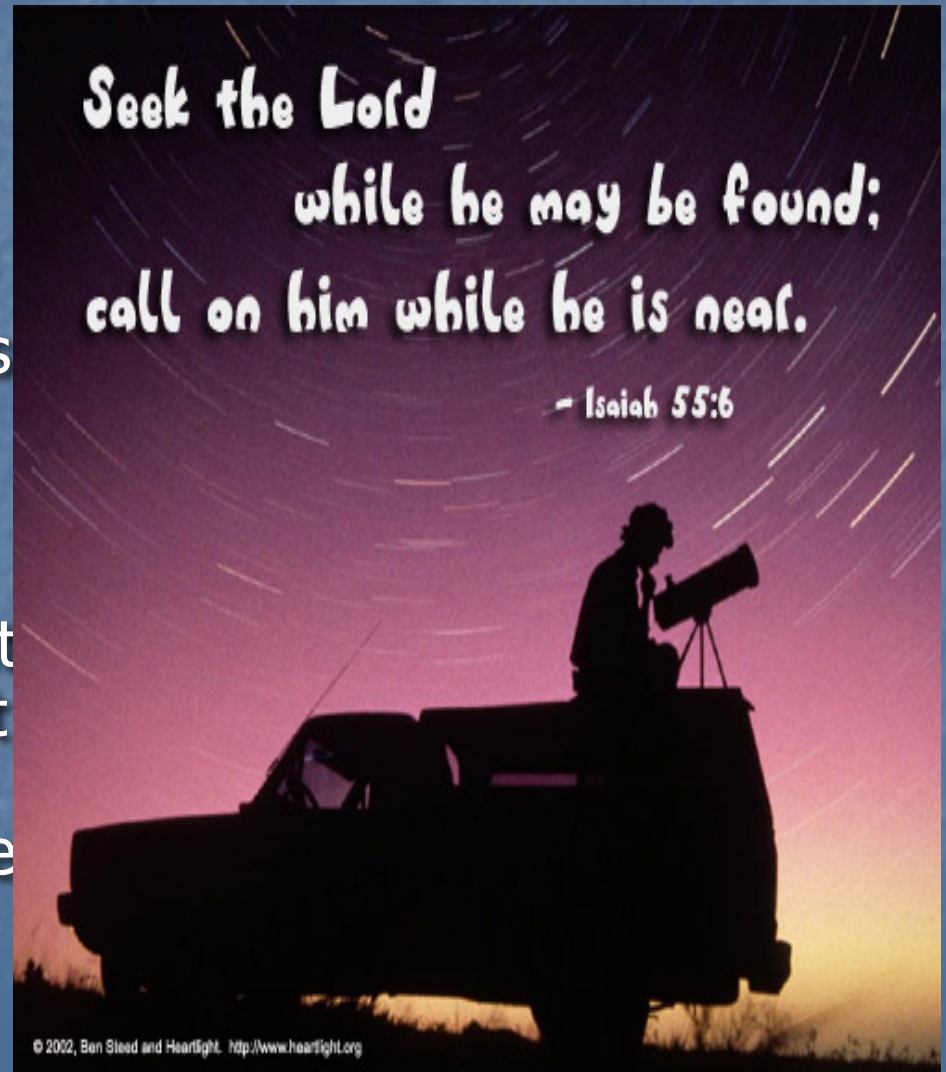
- Confirmation **is not** something one does in order to graduate.
- Confirmation **cannot** be reduced to a rite of passage.
- Confirmation is not a cultural celebration or party.





# Confirmation

- Confirmation is a **Sacrament** (Holy Mystery):
- As a sacrament it communicates and reveals communion with God and his grace.
- Confirmation confers a sacramental character that cannot be erased and that **predisposes** the Christian person to receive the very life of God, and his divine protection.





# Confirmation

- Confirmation **completes** the baptismal grace..
- The Confirmed person is compelled to **witness** the Christian faith with conviction by word and deeds.



**Hebrews 12:1**

Since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

# Confirmation

- Confirmation perpetuates (keeps alive) the grace of **Pentecost**.
- In other words, the action and presence of the Holy Spirit manifested in our lives' character, words and actions.





# Confirmation

- At confirmation we receive the Holy Spirit, The paraclete, the advocate.
- To help us continue the mission of our Lord.
- To **strengthen** our baptismal faith
- To guide us toward the truth.

*... you are in Christ Jesus,*

who has become for us wisdom from God – that is,  
our righteousness, holiness and redemption.

Therefore, as it is written:

“Let him who boasts boast in the Lord.”



1 CORINTHIANS 1:30-31



# The Mission of Christ our Mission

- “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.” **Luke 4: 18-19**

# Confirmation

- Like Christ,
- We are anointed to proclaim the good news of the Kingdom of God ( to be witnesses)



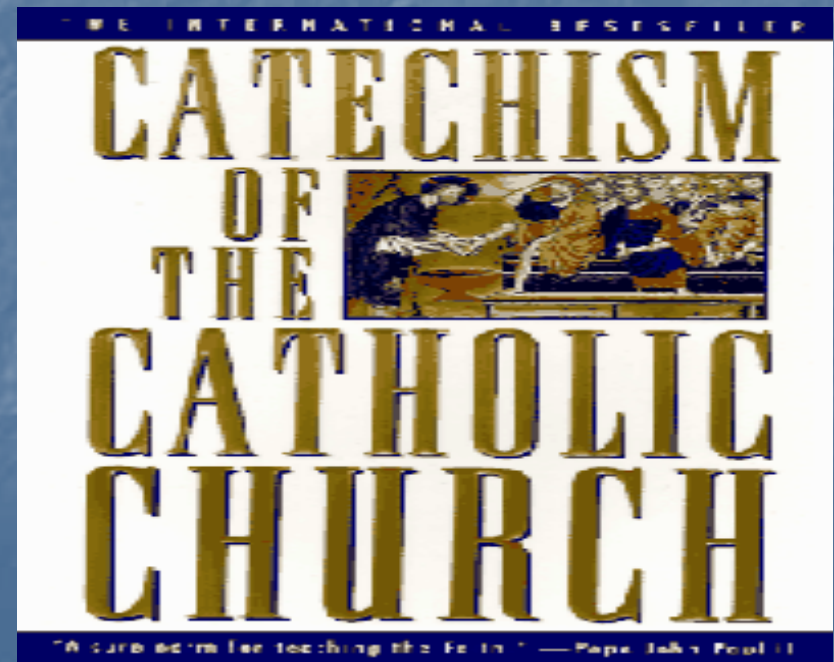
# How to be a witness?

- Become **involve** in your community of faith (parish), through its different **ministries**.
- Be a role model of faith to your family, friends and your community.
- **Share** your **faith** with your friends.
- Support social justice (listen to the Pope and the bishop's call for social change in society on areas such: racism, prejudice, wages, right to life, abortion, euthanasia among others).
- Get to know your **Catholic faith**, the scriptures.



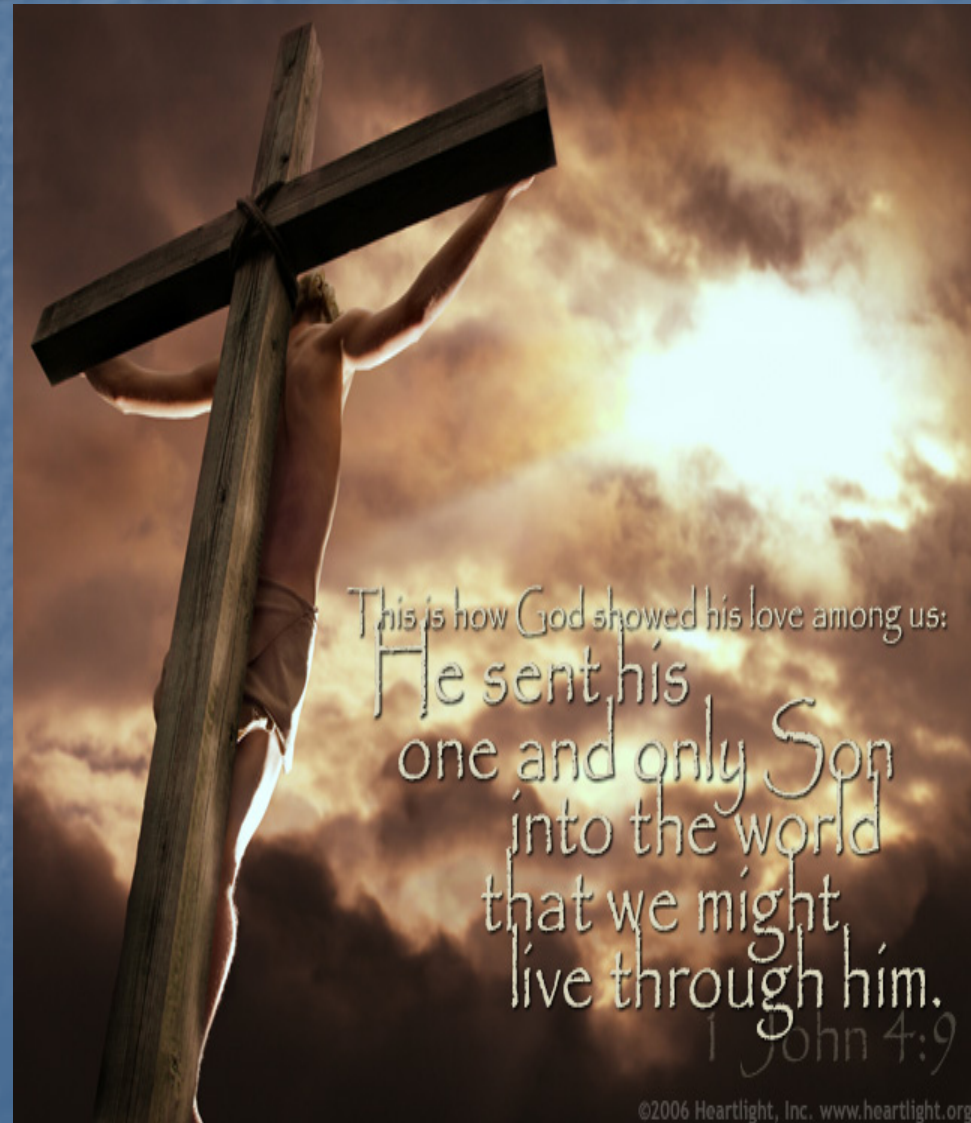
# What does Confirmation involve?

- Confirmation involves a **mature faith** ( a desire to grow in the knowledge of God).
- Confirmation involves a commitment to one's faith (Church)
- Confirmation involves a **commitment** to know more about our faith's **teachings**, **practices** and **traditions**.
- Confirmation involves a sharing of this gift of faith with others.



# What is the faith of the Church?

- The celebration of Confirmation celebrates the faith of the Church in the **power** of the Holy Spirit given to us at Pentecost.
- The Power of the Holy Spirit is life transforming.
- Acts 2: 1-13





# Questions

- What is one thing you would like to see changed in your heart?
- What is one change you would like to see in the world?



# Question

- During difficult times or choices in life how do you experience the presence or guidance of The Holy Spirit?



# How Is the Spirit present in the life of Jesus?

- A. Through his birth ( Jesus was **conceived** by the power of Holy Spirit)
- B. At his baptism, Jesus was **anointed** and **revealed** as God's son.
- C. In his preaching, Jesus revealed that the Spirit was upon him ( Matthew 3: 13-17)
- D. In his **actions**: forgiveness, miracles, healings, exorcism.





# How is the Spirit present in our lives?

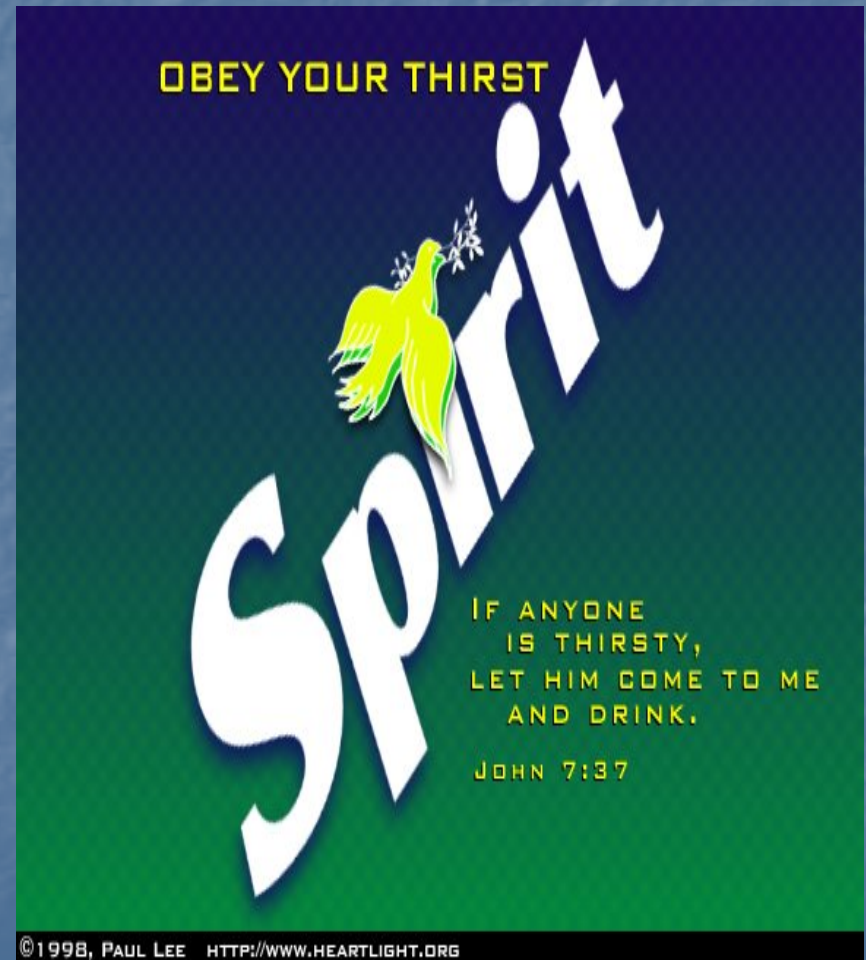
- A. In our baptism ( we are **marked** forever)
- B. In our confirmation ( We are **anointed** and filled with the gifts of the **Holy Spirit**)
- C. In our daily lives ( We are strengthened **through** the **sacraments** and the Lords' divine protection.
- D. Through the gift of faith
- E. In our actions ( our good deeds toward God and neighbor)
- F. In the Truth (When we practice honesty and justice)





# How is the Spirit tied to the mission of Christ?

- The Spirit helps us carry on the mission of Christ.
- The Spirit inspires us to follow Christ's teachings
- The Spirit help us promote and live the Kingdom of God through love, peace, and justice



# Question

- In what concrete ways are you bringing the Kingdom of God closer to the men and women of today?



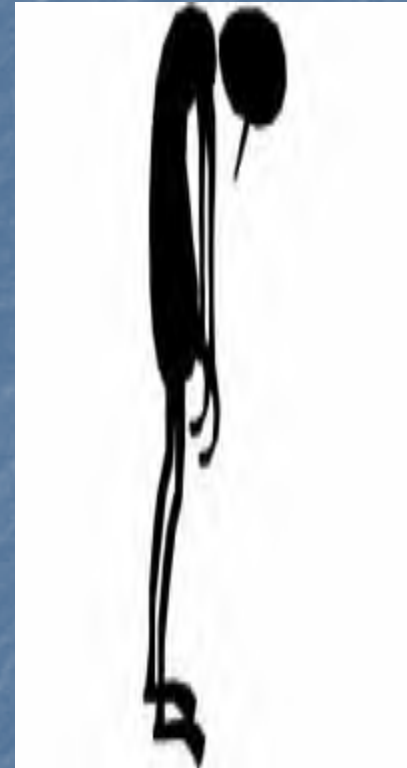
# What is Pentecost?

- Pentecost is the feast of the Holy Spirit
- On Pentecost the disciples of Jesus were filled with the Holy Spirit
- The Church's mission began on Pentecost



# Before Pentecost

- A. The disciples of Jesus were **afraid**.
- B. The disciples of Jesus were **discouraged**
- C. The disciples of Jesus were **disappointed**
- D. The disciples of Jesus were **confused**.
- John 20:19





# After Pentecost

- A. The disciples were no longer afraid of persecution
- B. The disciples recovered the faith
- C. The disciples were ready to continue what Jesus started
- D. The disciples were clear about God and his will.



# The effects of Confirmation

- A. Courage : mental strength
- B. Hope: Positive outlook on life
- C. Strength: Power to conquer temptation
- D. Purpose: Direction and meaning in life
- E. Peace: the strength to overcome anxiety and fear.
- F. Grace: The power to do God's will
- G. Truth: The power to do and follow what is right and true.



# Questions

- How do you allow the grace of Confirmation to shape your life and your mission?

# How is the Sacrament of Confirmation celebrated?

- The sacrament is celebrated through the anointing with chrism on the forehead.
- And the laying on of hands
- And the words: Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit





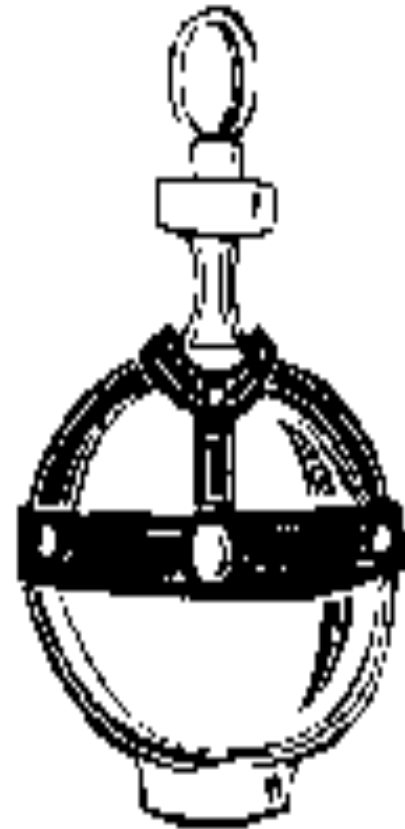
# Why are we anointed with Chrism?

- Anointing with oil, has been the **practice** for confirmation since the early Church. Chrism is connected to the word Christ, “anointed one”
- We are anointed so that we can spread the Kingdom of God on this earth.



# What is oil a symbol of?

- Oil is a symbol of strength and healing
- In the sacrament of confirmation we receive strength to be witnesses of Christ resurrected, and to do what is right and good.



*Holy Chrism*



# What is the meaning of the different oils?

- Oil of Catechumens = cleansing and strengthening
- Oil of the sick = healing and comfort
- Chrism = consecration (made holy) and service

# Can Confirmation be repeated?

- NO, Like baptism confirmation is only received once.





# What happens at Confirmation?

- The Christians received a spiritual seal, our soul is **marked** with the Holy Spirit and his strength.
- 2 Corinthians 1: 21-22



# Who is the minister of Confirmation?

- The original minister of confirmation is the Bishop
- Only the bishop can delegate (appoint) a priest to confirm in his name on special occasions or circumstances.
- In the **Eastern Churches** priest can confirm infants after baptism.





# What is the role of the sponsor?

- The role of the sponsor is to help the one being confirmed remain firm and strong in the faith.
- Sponsors are role models of **faith**, their task is to give support and inspiration to those living the Christian faith.

For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

Romans 8:13-14



# Question

- Who are your role models of faith?



# Confirmation Name

- A name is chosen (optional) to remind us of baptism.
- A new name is a sign of a new life and a new way of living.



# Question

- What is your confirmation name?
- Why did you choose this particular name?





The End

And God is able to make all grace  
abound to you, so that in all things  
at all times, having all that you need,  
you will abound in every good work.

*2 Corinthians 9:8*