

The Rite of Confirmation

The rite of Confirmation is extraordinarily simple. It normally includes a renewal of baptismal promises, the laying on of hands, the anointing with the oil of chrism, and a blessing.

The usual minister of the sacrament is a bishop, but priests are routinely authorized to administer confirmation. Those to be confirmed (often called confirmandi) formally renew the promises made in baptism. They are asked if they renounce Satan and profess the basic beliefs of the Church.

The best way to understand confirmation is to see it standing between baptism and Eucharist as part of the Rites of Christian Initiation. This is the approach taken by the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, which treats confirmation under the heading “Sacraments of Christian Initiation,” and insists that the unity of baptism, confirmation, and Eucharist “must be safeguarded.”

Confirmation is the “seal” of God’s promise. It marks us as God’s property, a people set apart. In Catholic tradition confirmation is indeed a sacrament of commitment, but the commitment we celebrate was God’s, before it was ours. It is much less a sacrament of human commitment than a sacrament of faith in God’s fidelity to us.

*This section has been taken from ‘Catholic Update guide to Confirmation’ by Kendzia

Did you Know?

Understanding the significance of confirmation is easier if we consider it in the context of the integral celebration of the three sacraments of initiation. In that celebration, the water bath of baptism focuses our attention on incorporation into the death and resurrection of Christ. The anointing we call confirmation focuses our attention on the gift of the Spirit, who brings about that incorporation into Christ. The Eucharist focuses our attention on our identity as members of the body of Christ and as disciples called to carry on the mission of the Lord. All three of these sacraments express and celebrate different aspects of our initiation into Christ’s body.

*Forming the Assembly to celebrate the Sacraments
by Lawrence E. Mick

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit,
That my thoughts may all be holy.
Act in me, O Holy Spirit, that
My work, too, may be holy.
Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit,
That I love but what is holy.
Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, to
Defend all that is holy.
Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit,
That I always may be holy.
Amen.

(www.feastofsaints.com/index.htm)

The Sacrament of Confirmation



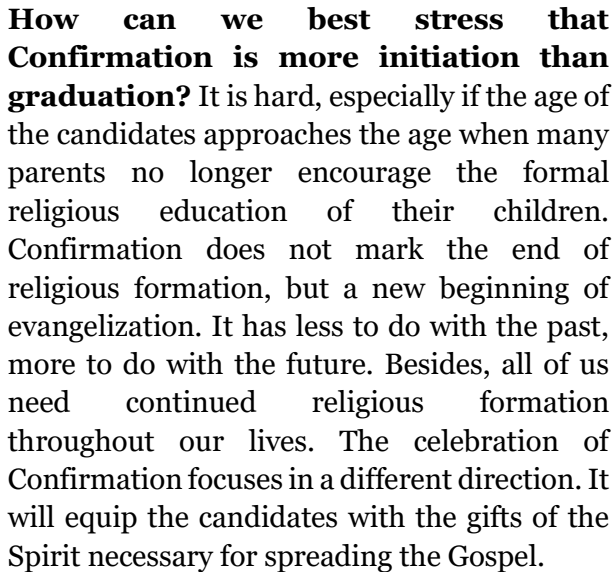
“The anointing with oil symbolizes the ways in which the Holy Spirit permeates our being, saturates us with grace, penetrates our hearts, and produces a lingering effect that is noticeable to others.”

*Living the Sacraments by Joe Paprocki



*Roman Catholic
Diocese of Prince Albert
Liturgy Office*

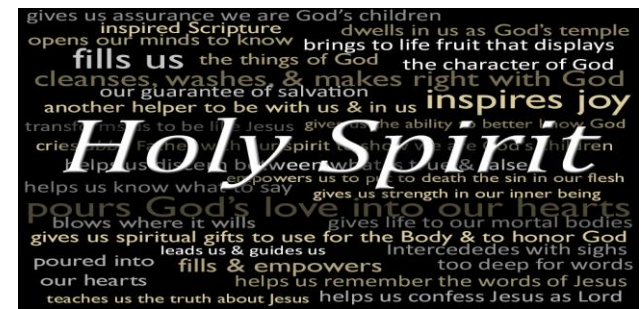
Celebrate Christ! From Water to Life



The goal of preparation is not merely receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, but using it.

The Sacrament of Baptism

“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. For “by the sacrament of Confirmation, [the baptized] are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed.”



St. Paul tells us that when the Holy Spirit “rubs off” on us, we take on the following qualities (Galatians 5: 22-23):

- Love (putting one's own needs aside to tend to the needs of others)
- Joy (having lightness of being and the ability to brighten up a room)
- Peace (living in a state of serenity, even when in turmoil)
- Forbearance (winking at the foibles and shortcomings of others instead of putting people in their place)
- Kindness (responding to even the grumpiest of people with graciousness and civility)
- Faithfulness (staying on message, even under duress)
- Gentleness (remaining even-keeled and reasonable in the face of conflict)
- Self-control (practicing mindfulness)

*taken from 'Living the Sacraments'
by Joe Paprocki