

## SACRAMENTS - SESSION TWELVE

Our Youth will appreciate experiencing the maturing Jesus in the sacrament of confirmation and to know its implications for their own commissioning to be preachers of the Gospel by the way they live the Gospel.

Parents: The first part of the following is quoted from the New Catechism for the Catholic Church which has done an exceptional job of summarizing the significant points relative to Confirmation.

### Confirmation – An Overview

- Acts of the Apostles introduces the section on:

Now when the Apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the Word of God they sent to them Peter and John who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit; for it had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. They laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit." (Acts 8:14-17)

- Confirmation perfects Baptismal Grace; it is the sacrament which gives the Holy Spirit in order to root us more deeply in our relationship to God, incorporate us more firmly into Christ, strengthen our bond with the church, associate us more closely with Her Mission, and help us bear witness to the Christian faith in words accompanied by deeds.
- Confirmation, like Baptism, imprints a spiritual mark or indelible character on the Christian soul; For this reason one can receive this sacrament only once in a lifetime.
- In the East, this sacrament is administered immediately after Baptism and is followed by participation in the Eucharist; this tradition highlights the unity of the three sacraments of Christian Initiation.
- In the Latin Church, this sacrament is administered when the age of reason has been reached, and its celebration is ordinarily reserved to the Bishop, thus signifying that this sacrament strengthens the whole community of faith – the Church.
- A candidate for Confirmation who has attained the age of reason must profess the faith, be in the state of Grace, have the intention of receiving the sacrament, and be prepared to assume the role of disciple and witness to Christ both within the Church community and in temporal affairs.
- The essential rite of Confirmation is anointing the forehead of the baptized with the Sacred Chrism (in the East other sense organs as well), together with the laying on of the minister's hand and the words: (Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.). The sign of peace is then given: "May the peace of the Lord be with you."
- When Confirmation is celebrated separately from Baptism its connection with Baptism is expressed, among other ways, by the renewal of Baptismal promises.
- The celebration of Confirmation during the Eucharist helps underline the unity of the sacraments of Christian initiation.

Parents:

- Encourage your children to pick the name of a saint to whom they feel drawn. Help them by telling them about the lives of several saints to help them make a good choice.
- A Confirmation sponsor should be one who models a committed faith life. Every person has a certain number of special people who simply by being in their lives, touch each of us in a special way and give us the experience of who God is. Because of them, we are the religious persons we are today. It is this kind of person who is the best Confirmation Sponsor and also the best expression of what a Confirmed person is called to be.
- Many confirmation prep programs (and parents could do this also) require a certain number of service hours – doing things for others – as introduction to the Ministry to which Confirmation commissions an individual to engage life-long.
- A most important contribution of parents to Confirmation preparation consists in sharing your preparation process with your children. Who were your sponsors for Baptism and Confirmation? What have they taught you? What Saint's name did you pick for Confirmation? Why the choice? Who was the Bishop? What people were present that day that made it special for you? Anything you can share will simply add graciousness and importance to Confirmation Memories for the Family. A great opportunity to bond more closely!!