

BE SEALED WITH THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Sacrament of Confirmation

CONFIRMATION

- Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist – Sacraments of Christian Initiation
- Confirmation is necessary to complete the grace of Baptism
- You are more perfectly bound to the Church
- You are enriched with special strength of the Holy Spirit
- You are witnesses of Christ
- Obligated to spread and defend faith

PROMISE

- Jesus promised the gift of the Holy Spirit on several occasions
- Jesus fulfilled His promise first on Easter and more strikingly on Pentecost

LAYING ON OF HANDS AND CHRISM

- The imposition of hands is rightly recognized by the Catholic tradition as the origin of the sacrament of Confirmation, which in a certain way perpetuates the grace of Pentecost in the Church.
- Very early, the better to signify the gift of the Holy Spirit, an anointing with perfumed oil (*chrism*) was added to the laying on of hands. This anointing highlights the name "Christian," which means "anointed" and derives from that of Christ himself whom God "anointed with the Holy Spirit." This rite of anointing has continued ever since, in both East and West. For this reason the Eastern Churches call this sacrament *Chrismation*, anointing with chrism, or *myron* which means "chrism." In the West, the term *Confirmation* suggests that this sacrament both confirms and strengthens baptismal grace.

ANOINTING

- oil is a sign of abundance and joy
- it cleanses (anoointing before and after a bath)
- it limbers (the anoointing of athletes and wrestlers)
- oil is a sign of healing, since it is soothing to bruises and wounds
- it makes radiant with beauty, health, and strength.

ANOINTING

- 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."

SEAL

- Through anointing, Christian receives a mark or seal of the Holy Spirit
- A seal is a symbol of a person, a sign of personal authority, or ownership of an object.
- Soldiers were marked with their leader's seal and slaves with their master's.
- A seal authenticates a juridical act or document and occasionally makes it secret.

SEAL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT MARKS:

- our total belonging to Christ,
- our enrollment in his service for ever, as well as the promise of divine protection in times of trial

PRAYER OF THE BISHOP

- All-powerful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
by water and the Holy Spirit
you freed your sons and daughters from sin
and gave them new life.
Send your Holy Spirit upon them
to be their helper and guide.
Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of right judgment and courage,
the spirit of knowledge and reverence.
Fill them with the spirit of wonder and awe in your
presence.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- Wisdom
- Knowledge
- Understanding
- Fortitude (Courage)
- Counsel (Right Judgement)
- Piety (Reverence)
- Fear of the Lord (Wonder and Awe)