

Confirmation

Lesson 19 Summary

Lesson Learning Objectives

- The participants will study the history and effects of the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- The participants will explore the significance of the ritual and symbols of Confirmation.

Content Summary

1. The Holy Spirit is the primary gift we receive in Confirmation so we can grow even stronger in our calling to be Christ's disciples.
2. As with all the Sacraments, all three persons of the Holy Trinity participate in Confirmation, but in this Sacrament we call particular attention to the Holy Spirit.
3. Confirmation is one of the three Sacraments of Christian Initiation.
4. Confirmation builds on, and is necessary for, the completion of the gifts already received in Baptism.
5. The Sacrament of Confirmation has two primary effects. The first is that the confirmed person's bond with the Church is strengthened. The second is that the person is enriched with an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Both of these effects bring to perfection the grace that is first received in Baptism and are the basis for other more specific ways that the Sacrament impacts the life of a Christian.
6. The Roman Catholic practice of Confirmation expresses the communion of the fully initiated Christian with the bishop and the universal Church. The Eastern practice shows the traditional unity between Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist and emphasizes that the Holy Spirit is given in all three Sacraments.
7. During the Confirmation Mass, the actual Order of Confirmation begins after the bishop's homily when the bishop asks the candidates to renew their baptismal vows. Then the bishop extends his hands over the confirmands and prays that they will receive the Holy Spirit.
8. The bishop anoints each candidate's forehead with the Sacred Chrism (oil), placing his hands on her or him, and saying, "Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit."
9. Confirmation is not about becoming an adult Catholic but rather about becoming a fully initiated Catholic.

(All summary points are taken from *The Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth, Third Edition*. Copyright © 2013 by Saint Mary's Press. All rights reserved.)

