



1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Exodus 13:21

## The Holy Spirit

Acts 2:1-4

Luke 3:21-22

Ezekiel 37:14

### “What is a Sacrament?”

- Efficacious sign
- Instituted by Christ
- Entrusted to the Church
- Transmits grace – Divine Life

## Efficacious sign

Sacraments reveal  
and make present  
the reality  
they signify.



CCC 1084

## Instituted by Christ

- Scripture
- Apostolic Tradition
- Fathers of the Church



CCC 1115

## Entrusted to the Church



- Every liturgical action is an action of Christ and His Church
- It is Christ Who baptizes, forgives, ordains, heals
- Validity

CCC 1116, 1140

# Transmits grace

- What God has created, He sanctifies.
- Grace raises us up from “creature” to “child.”
- Through the sacraments, God effects a new creation in man.

CCC 1127



*In the Old Testament...*

## Anointing

- Abundance and joy  
(Psalm 23:5)
- Consecration
  - Priests (Lev 8:12)
  - Prophets (Sirach 48)
  - Kings (1 Sam 10:1)
- Sign of the Messianic Age (Isaiah 61)



*Fulfilled in the New Testament*

***The Spirit is for all people!***



CCC 1286-1287



*No one can say,*

***'Jesus is Lord'***

*except by*

***the Holy Spirit!***

*1 Corinthians 12:3*





## Confirmation

- “...the unity of the sacraments of initiation must be safeguarded.”
- “The reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace.”

**\*\*Confirmation perfects Baptismal grace\*\***

[The baptized] are more perfectly bound to the Church by the sacrament of Confirmation, and the Holy Spirit endows them with special strength so that they are more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith, both by word and by deed, as true witnesses of Christ.

*Lumen Gentium, 11*

## History and Development

- The Apostles (Acts 19:4-6)
- Practical challenges
  - East: emphasis on the unity of Christian Initiation
  - West: emphasis on one's communion with the apostolic Church

## Efficacious Sign

- **Matter:**

- Anointing with sacred chrism
- and the laying on of hands



- **Form:**

- “Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit”

Our lives are confirmed by the Spirit in the conviction that Jesus is Lord!

## Instituted by Christ

“It is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.” *John 16:7-8*

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth.” *Acts 1:8*

## Entrusted to the Church

- **Minister of Confirmation**

- East: the priest
- West: the bishop

- **Who can be Confirmed?**

- **Must be in the state of Grace!**



The sharing in the divine nature given to men through the grace of Christ bears a certain likeness to the origin, development, and nourishing of natural life. The faithful are born anew by Baptism, strengthened by the sacrament of Confirmation, and received in the Eucharist the food of eternal life. By means of these sacraments of Christian initiation, they thus receive in increasing measure the treasures of the divine life and advance toward the perfection of charity.

CCC 1212

"Christian initiation is accomplished by three sacraments together: Baptism which is the beginning of new life; Confirmation which is its strengthening; and the Eucharist which nourishes the disciple with Christ's Body and Blood for his transformation in Christ."

CCC 1275

## Transmits grace

- Indelible Mark – the seal of the Holy Spirit
  - Jn 6:27, 2 Cor 1:21-22, Eph 1:13, Ez 9:4-6, Rev 7:2-3
- Effects of Confirmation
  - "gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the Faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross."

CCC 1303

Called to witness...  
...Called to be saints

“The grace of confirmation is above all a grace of sending, a commissioning for mission, for apostolate, and the strengthening of that mission. By ‘apostolate’ the Council means every activity of the Church is aimed at the sanctification of men and the order of them toward Christ.”

*Christopher Cardinal Schönborn*  
(See Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity, no 3)

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Gifts of the Spirit

Isaiah 11:2

- Wisdom
- Understanding
- Knowledge
- Counsel
- Piety
- Fortitude
- Fear of the Lord



CCC 1830-1832

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Gifts of the Spirit

Isaiah 11:2

Wisdom

The gift of wisdom, by detaching us from the world, makes us relish and love only the things of heaven.

Catholic Encyclopedia

CCC 1830-1832



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## Gifts of the Spirit

Isaiah 11:2



### Knowledge

The gift of knowledge points out to us the path to follow and the dangers to avoid in order to reach heaven.

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## Gifts of the Spirit

Isaiah 11:2



### Understanding

The gift of understanding helps us to grasp the truths of religion as far as is necessary.

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## Gifts of the Spirit

Isaiah 11:2



### Counsel

The gift of counsel springs from supernatural prudence, and enables us to see and choose correctly what will help most to the glory of God and our own salvation.

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## Gifts of the Spirit

Isaiah 11:2

### *Fortitude*

By the gift of fortitude we receive courage to overcome the obstacles and difficulties that arise in the practice of our religious duties.

Catholic Encyclopedia

CCC 1830-1832



## Gifts of the Spirit

Isaiah 11:2

### *Piety*

The gift of piety, by inspiring us with a tender and filial confidence in God, makes us joyfully embrace all that pertains to His service.

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## Gifts of the Spirit

Isaiah 11:2

### *Fear of the Lord*

Lastly, the gift of fear fills us with a sovereign respect for God, and makes us dread, above all things, to offend Him.

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## Fruits of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22-23



Charity		
Patience	Joy	
Generosity	Peace	
Modesty	Kindness	Goodness
	Gentleness	Faithfulness
		Self-Control
		Chastity

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## Celebration of the Sacrament

- Consecration of sacred chrism  
by Bishop or Patriarch
- Renewal of Baptismal Promises
- Bishop extends  
his hands and  
prays
- Essential Rite
- Sign of Peace



CCC  
1299

## Preparation

“The interior disposition of the recipient plays a role in each sacrament. Thus, the effect of the sacrament can be impeded through the fault of the recipient, such as when a person feigns to receive it but has a heart unprepared to receive it worthily.”

*St Thomas Aquinas, 'The Sacraments'*

## Preparation

### *Aims:*

- More intimate union with Christ and lively familiarity with the Holy Spirit
- A sense of belonging to the Church – both universal and local
- Prepared to assume role of disciple and witness to Christ – both within parish community and in temporal affairs.

CCC 1309

*The parish  
community “bears  
special responsibility  
for the preparation  
of confirmands”*

CCC 1309

**Called to witness...  
...Called to be saints**



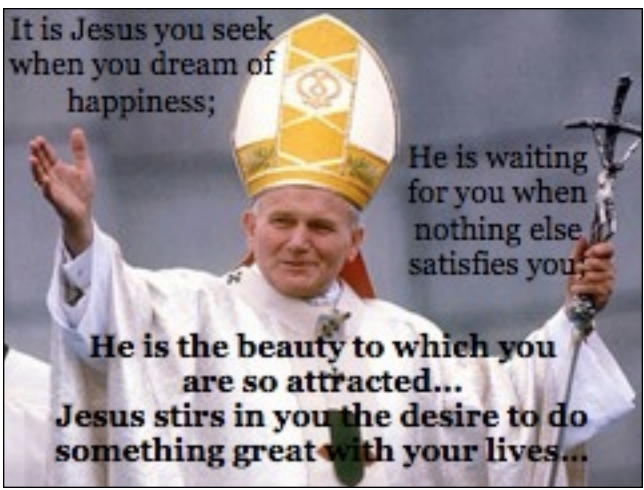
**“Above all the Gospel must be  
proclaimed by witness.... Modern  
man listens more willingly to  
witnesses than to teachers, and if he  
does listen to teachers, it is because  
they are witnesses.”**

*Pope Paul VI, Evangelii Nuntiandi 41*

**“If you are what you  
should be,  
you will set the world  
on fire.”**

*God the Father to St. Catherine of Siena*





It is Jesus you seek  
when you dream of  
happiness;

He is waiting  
for you when  
nothing else  
satisfies you.

**He is the beauty to which you  
are so attracted...**  
**Jesus stirs in you the desire to do  
something great with your lives...**

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