

Keysis Outline
1/30/08

CONFIRMATION CCC 1285-1321

I. Confirmation as Sacrament

- Efficacious sign of grace
- A sacrament of initiation along with Baptism and Eucharist
- Baptism is the beginning of new life, Confirmation is the strengthening, and the Eucharist which nourishes.
- *The sacrament of Confirmation “is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace” CCC 1285*

“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.” CCC 1285

II. Confirmation in Scripture

- Christ instituted all of the sacraments as evidenced in Scripture
- Is 11:3-The Spirit of the Lord would rest upon the hoped-for Messiah
- At His baptism: *“After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove coming upon him” Mt 3:16.*
- The Holy Spirit didn't just belong to Jesus. He promised to leave us the Holy Spirit. That is fulfilled in Pentecost—Acts 2:1-4

III. Laying on of Hands

- “From that time on the apostles, in fulfillment of Christ's will, imparted to the newly baptized by the laying on of hands the gift of the Spirit that completes the grace of Baptism. CCC 1288
- Acts 8:14-17 Keep reading 18-19.
- The anointing with oil was added very early on

IV. The sacred Chrism & being sealed

- The anointing highlights the name “Christian” which means “anointed.”
- Anointing is rich in symbolism—a sign of abundance & joy; it cleanses (before & after bath); it limbers (anointing of athletes); a sign of healing since it soothes bruises and wounds; it makes radiant with beauty, health & strength
- We share more completely in the mission of Jesus by admitting the “aroma of Christ
- By the anointing, the confirmand receives the “mark” or the seal of the Holy Spirit—ownership of an object just as a soldier or slave is marked.
- Jn 6:27-28—If it's good enough for Jesus, it's good enough for me.

- The seal of the Holy Spirit marks our total belong to Christ and offers divine protection. **It's a one-time deal.**

V. The Celebration of Confirmation

- Renewal of baptismal promises and profession of faith
- The bishop extends his hands over the whole group, a gesture that signifies the giving of the Holy Spirit

“All-powerful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by water and the HS you freed your sons and daughters from sin and gave them new life. Send your HS upon them to be their helper and guide. Give them the spirit of wisdom & understanding, 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.”

CCC1299

- The head is anointed with oil as the bishop says “be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit”.
- The sign of peace—shows communion with the community and the bishop.

VI. East vs. West

- East—confirms as infants following baptism. Done by the priest, though the oil is consecrated by the bishop.
- Many of the parts of the body are anointed—head, eyes, nose, ears, lips, chest, back, hands, and feet. Each anointing is accompanied by “the seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit”
- West—Bishop confirms, though it can be delegated with permission. In danger of death, confirmation may be conferred by a priest without permission.
- **Chocolate Milk Analogy:** you pull out a see-through glass. That glass is you. At birth, God filled you with life (pour in milk.) You're pure and white. Volunteer tastes it. It's really milk. At Baptism, the Holy Spirit is given to you (chocolate syrup is the Holy Spirit.) Volunteer tastes it. What does it taste like? Still just milk. What's the problem? At Confirmation, we receive a greater outpouring of the Holy Spirit (pour in more chocolate) and the Spirit is stirred in our lives (stir it up.) (I like to say Jesus is the spoon.) Then the volunteer tastes it. Yum! Moral: You can receive the Spirit and just sit there, but unless you stir it up (and keep it stirred) there will be no change in you (and it will settle if you don't keep it stirred.)

VII. The Effects of Confirmation

- A special outpouring of the Holy Spirit
- Increases and deepens baptismal grace
 - i. Strengthens our relationship with God our Father
 - ii. Unites us more firmly to Christ
 - iii. Increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit
 - iv. Renders our bond with the Church more perfect
 - v. Gives us a special strength of the HS to spread and defend (proclaim Christ boldly, and never be ashamed of the Cross!)
- An indelible mark

VIII. The gifts of the Holy Spirit

- Wisdom, understanding & knowledge
- Courage
- Right judgment
- Reverence or piety
- Fear of the Lord