The Sacrament of Confirmation

Mr. Pablo Cuadra
Religion class
What is confirmation?

- Confirmation is one of the three sacraments of initiation.
- Confirmation is known as Christmation by the Eastern Catholic churches in communion with Rome.
Misconceptions about Confirmation

- Confirmation **is not** something one does in order to graduate.
- Confirmation **is not** something one does just to get married in the Catholic Church.
- Confirmation **cannot** be reduced to a rite of passage.
- Confirmation is not a cultural celebration or party.
Confirmation

- Confirmation is a **Sacrament** (Holy Mystery):
- As a sacrament it **communicates** and reveals communion with God and his grace.
- Confirmation confers a sacramental character that cannot be erased and that **predisposes** the Christian person to receive the very life of God, and his divine protection.

Seek the Lord
while he may be found;
call on him while he is near.

- Isaiah 55:6
Confirmation

- Confirmation **completes** the baptismal grace.
- The Christian participates now fully in the body of Christ with rights and obligations of a spiritual and temporal character.
- The Confirmed person is compelled to **witness** the Christian faith with **conviction** by word and deeds.

*Hebrews 12:1*

> Since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.
Confirmation

- Confirmation perpetuates (keeps alive) the grace of **Pentecost**.
- In other words, the action and presence of the Holy Spirit manifested in our lives’ character, words and actions.

“Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,” says the LORD Almighty. Zechariah 4:6
Confirmation

- Confirmation has a **Messianic** (salvific) character.
- Christ (messiah) **promised** to send his Spirit.
- This promise was fulfilled at Easter Sunday and at Pentecost.
Confirmation

- At confirmation we receive the Holy Spirit, The paraclete, the advocate.
- To help us continue the mission of our Lord.
- To **strengthen** our baptismal faith
- To guide us toward the truth.

... you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God — that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: “Let him who boasts boast in the Lord.”

1 CORINTHIANS 1:30-31
The Mission of Christ our Mission

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.” Luke 4: 18-19
Confirmation

- Like Christ,
- We are anointed (chosen)
- Eastern Catholics use the word Chrismation instead of confirmation to highlight this important aspect. The word Chrismation like the word Christian comes from Christ (the anointed one).

DO NOT PUT OUT THE SPIRIT'S FIRE.
1 THESSALONIANS 5:19
Confirmation

- Like Christ,
- We are anointed to proclaim the good news of the Kingdom of God (to be witnesses)
How to be a witness?

- Become **involve** in your community of faith (parish), through its different **ministries**.
- Be a **role model of faith** to your family, friends and your community.
- **Share** your **faith** with your co-workers and friends.
- Support **social justice** (listen to the Pope and the bishop’s call for social change in society on areas such: racism, prejudice, wages, right to life, abortion, euthanasia among others).
- Get to know your **Catholic faith**, the scriptures.
What does Confirmation involve?

- Confirmation involves a **mature faith** (a desire to grow in the knowledge of God).
- Confirmation involves a commitment to one’s faith (Church).
- Confirmation involves a **commitment** to know more about our faith’s teachings, practices and traditions.
- Confirmation involves a sharing of this gift of faith with others.
What is the faith of the Church?

- The celebration of Confirmation celebrates the faith of the Church in the **power** of the Holy Spirit given to us at Pentecost.
- The Power of the Holy Spirit is **life transforming**.
- Acts 2: 1-13
Questions

- What is one thing you would like to see changed in your heart?

- What is one change you would like to see in the world?
How does the Spirit of God act in us?

- The Spirit of God is given to us through the sacraments of initiation. We believe the Holy Spirit:
  - A. Lives in us
  - B. Act through us
  - C. Assist us
  - D. Strengthen us
  - E. Guide us

 When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior … Isaiah 43:2-3
Question

- During difficult times or choices in life, how do you experience the presence or guidance of The Holy Spirit?
How Is the Spirit present in the life of Jesus?

- A. Through his birth (Jesus was **conceived** by the power of Holy Spirit)
- B. At his baptism, Jesus was **anointed** and **revealed** as God’s son.
- C. In his preaching, Jesus revealed that the Spirit was **upon him** (Matthew 3: 13-17)
- D. In his **actions**: forgiveness, miracles, healings, exorcism.
How is the Spirit present in our lives?

- A. In our baptism (we are marked forever)
- B. In our confirmation (We are anointed and filled with the gifts of the Holy Spirit)
- C. In our daily lives (We are strengthened through the sacraments and the Lords’ divine protection.
- D. Through the gift of faith
- E. In our actions (our good deeds toward God and neighbor)
- F. In the Truth (When we practice honesty and justice)
How is the Spirit tied to the mission of Christ?

- The Spirit helps us carry on the mission of Christ.
- The Spirit inspires us to follow Christ’s teachings.
- The Spirit helps us promote and live the Kingdom of God through love, peace, and justice.
In what concrete ways are you bringing the Kingdom of God closer to the men and women of today?
What is Pentecost?

- Pentecost is the **feast** of the Holy Spirit
- On Pentecost the disciples of Jesus were filled with the Holy Spirit
- The Church’s mission began on Pentecost
Before Pentecost

- A. The disciples of Jesus were afraid.
- B. The disciples of Jesus were discouraged.
- C. The disciples of Jesus were disappointed.
- D. The disciples of Jesus were confused.
- John 20:19
After Pentecost

- A. The disciples were no longer afraid of persecution
- B. The disciples recovered the faith
- C. The disciples were ready to continue what Jesus started
- D. The disciples were clear about God and his will.
The effects of Confirmation

- A. Courage: mental strength
- B. Hope: Positive outlook on life
- C. Strength: Power to conquer temptation
- D. Purpose: Direction and meaning in life
- E. Peace: the strength to overcome anxiety and fear.
- F. Grace: The power to do God’s will
- G. Truth: The power to do and follow what is right and true.
Questions

- How do you allow the grace of Confirmation to shape your life and your mission?
How is the Sacrament of Confirmation celebrated?

- The sacrament is celebrated through the anointing with chrism on the forehead.
- And the lying on of hands
- And the words: Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit
Question

- Where were you confirmed?
- Who was the bishop that confirmed you?
How is confirmation celebrated in the East?

- Confirmation is celebrated after baptism.
- In the East, confirmation is known as Chrismation.
How is Confirmation celebrated in the West?

- In the West, Confirmation is delayed to a later date.
- In the West, Confirmation does not follow baptism (only in some exceptions).
Why are we anointed with Chrism?

- Anointing with oil, has been the **practice** for confirmation since the early Church. Chrism is connected to the word Christ, “anointed one”
- We are anointed so that we can spread the Kingdom of God on this earth.
What is oil a symbol of?

- Oil is a symbol of strength and healing.
- In the sacrament of confirmation we receive strength to be witnesses of Christ resurrected, and to do what is right and good.
What is the meaning of the different oils?

- Oil of Catechumens = cleansing and strengthening
- Oil of the sick = healing and comfort
- Chrism = consecration (made holy) and service
Can Confirmation be repeated?

- NO, Like baptism confirmation is only received once.
What happens at Confirmation?

- The Christians received a spiritual seal, our soul is marked with the Holy Spirit and his strength.

- 2 Corinthians 1: 21-22
Who is the minister of Confirmation?

- The original minister of confirmation is the Bishop.
- Only the bishop can delegate (appoint) a priest to confirm in his name on special occasions or circumstances.
- In the Eastern Churches, a priest can confirm infants after baptism.
What is the role of the sponsor?

- The role of the sponsor is to help the one being confirmed remain firm and strong in the faith.
- Sponsors are role models of faith, their task is to give support and inspiration to those living the Christian faith.

For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

Romans 8:15-14
Question

- Who are your role models of faith?
Confirmation Name

- A name is chosen (optional) to remind us of baptism.
- A new name is a sign of a new life and a new way of living.
Question

- What is your confirmation name?
- Why did you choose this particular name?
And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

2 Corinthians 9:8