

WHY IS THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION NECESSARY IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH?

In Baptism, the Holy Spirit infuses the soul with the three Theological Virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity. These supernatural virtues allow us to believe in God, to trust in His promises and to love God above all things and our neighbor as ourselves for the sake of the love of God. The Gifts of The Holy Spirit are supernatural qualities that make our soul amenable to the reception of the inspirations of the Holy Spirit, enabling us to act in conformity with God's will which in turn leads to a life of interior joy and peace. The seven Gifts of The Holy Spirit are Wisdom, Understanding, Knowledge, Fortitude, Counsel, Piety, and Fear of the Lord.

The first vocation of every Baptized Christian is to be Holy, that is, set apart for God.

In our culture today, young people are bombarded with the lie that their value as a human being is based on popularity, appearance, and material possessions. This contradicts the truth of the Gospel that our dignity comes from being an adopted child of God, created in His image and endowed with His likeness, and destined for eternal beatitude with God in Heaven.

Furthermore, young people face a society that is indifferent to God and focuses on self. Selfishness only leads to hopelessness and despair. Why? We find meaning in life only through self-giving love: donating of ourselves to God and to others in friendship and service. We were created by God and for God, and our joy lies in knowing, loving and serving God and our neighbor through self-giving love.

The graces received in Confirmation allow us to grow in goodness through the moral virtues. The virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity inform, and give life to, all the moral virtues which fall under the heading of prudence (making good decisions), justice (giving to God and others what is due), fortitude (suffering for others) and temperance (holding back our illicit desires). Under temperance falls chastity, the spiritual power that guards against falling into the trap of using another person, or being used, as an object for sexual pleasure. The Gifts of The Holy Spirit complete and perfect these same virtues by an infused grace from above.

As you can see, the Virtues and Gifts that are *strengthened* in Confirmation are crucial for our young people to know who they are in Christ, to protect their dignity, and to obtain happiness in faithfully following Him. Confirmation is not an end or a graduation, but a deepening of what was given at Baptism. The person is being called to a greater public witness of faith in Christ: Confirmation enables the person to fulfill this call to be a witness to Christ in society.

GUIDELINES FOR THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION *Involvement of the Family*

"In every program of religious education and in every Catholic school, the primacy of parents as educators in the faith is to be respected and stressed. Especially at the time of preparation for the reception of a Sacrament, parents should be fully engaged in the renewal of their own understanding of that Sacrament" (*Synod V Acts* n. 146). Furthermore, active participation in the

celebration of the Sunday Eucharist, regular Confession, daily family prayer, and Scripture reading enable families to live the Gospel life of Jesus Christ.

Period of Preparation

Young people need an adequate time of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation for the necessary openness one needs to be receptive to the interior movements of the Holy Spirit.

Preparation begins in, but is not limited to, ninth grade and is a two year process. Teens can enter the program at any age.

The Holy Spirit sanctifies us so that we can become saints by:

- ⊕ teaching us to pray to our Father.
- ⊕ prompting us to act so as to bear "the fruit of the Spirit" by charity in action.
- ⊕ healing the wounds of sin and renewing us interiorly through a spiritual transformation.
- ⊕ enlightening and strengthening us to live as "children of light" through "all that is good and right and true".

Personal Commitment

"Every program of catechesis should include a formation in the life of prayer and worship" (*Synod V Acts* n. 149). The confirmandi are to be committed to Sunday Mass, daily prayer, living by the Ten Commandments and committed attendance at the sessions of preparation. We will have several opportunities to attend youth days, to serve the community, and to attend youth ministry events

Our Vocation: Life in the Spirit

"Catechesis has to reveal in all clarity the joy and the demands of the way of Christ."

In the first year of the process, we utilize Decision Point, from Dynamic Catholic. The program has online support, as well as an app, and was developed specifically for teens.

In the second year, the students receive Catechesis directly from our Pastor, Fr. Timothy Deutsch.



Spiritual Retreat

In order to develop an ongoing relationship with Christ and the Church, young people are to participate in a spiritual Retreat. The emphasis is to focus on lifelong obligations and a commitment to live the Christian Faith. We will offer a weekend retreat once per year.



Sponsors

Each confirmand is to have a sponsor. Qualifications for a sponsor are such that he or she:

- ✚ must be at least sixteen years old;
- ✚ may not be a natural or adoptive parent of the confirmand
- ✚ must be fully initiated into the Catholic Faith (Baptism, Penance, Confirmation, and Eucharist);
- ✚ must be leading a life in harmony with the Faith; and
- ✚ must be free of any canonical impediment.

After Confirmation, sponsors, along with parents and siblings should continue to assist the confirmandi in continuing to grow in knowledge of the Faith; in worship of God; in faith, hope, and charity; and to perform works of service.

For more information on Confirmation or any other Sacraments, please contact:

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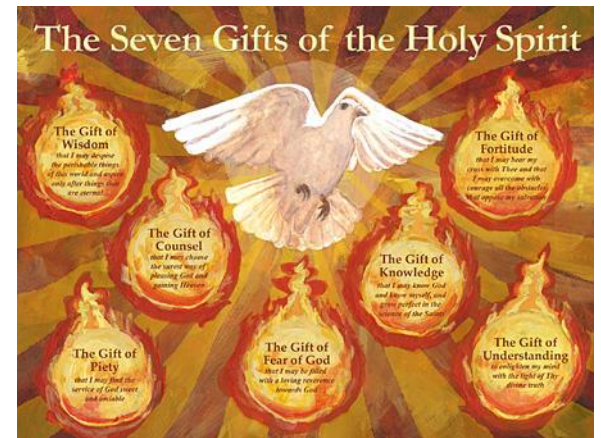
OR you may contact our Pastor, Fr. Timothy Deutsch

(619)445-2145

fr.timothy@queenofangels.org

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The Sacrament of Confirmation



Queen of Angels Parish
Alpine, CA

