

St. Michael the Archangel

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Dear Parish Family,

What a beautiful, moving and faith filled Sacrament of Confirmation celebration we had last Sunday. Those of you who joined here in the hall or through social media may agree with me. So beautiful to see our young men and women coming to the altar with their sponsor's hand on their shoulder, the Holy Oils traced on their forehead with the words of the sacrament, "Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit" and the next words, "Peace be with you!"

Very simple, and yet sacred words and gestures that affirmed what was begun in Baptism and now complete in this Sacrament of maturity! The homily of the administering minister of the Sacrament, Fr. John Taosan, encouraged them to walk with Christ who is the way, the truth, and the life.

Before the final blessing was imparted, I thought of challenging the Confirmed to be involved in a parish ministry. There are many areas of our parish that they can certainly be a part of. The parish needs their youth, their energies and their God given talents and skills for the growth of our St. Michael Parish Community. We need to eliminate the 'me feeling' or 'me attitude' which means, "What can the parish give me?" We must also say, "What can I give or share with the parish?" We need to take responsibility, not just for our own spiritual growth but also for the good health and growth of the parish. Many Catholics today are always looking for a life-giving parish, something that can give them what they want. But I want to say, that for a parish to be life-giving requires a system of give and take, a SHARED responsibility for the good of everyone in the parish.

I hope and pray that our young men and women that just received the Sacrament will accept the challenge and be a part of the many needs we have.

In Jesus,

Fr. Dwight

*If you wish to respond to Father Dwight please e-mail him directly at pastor@smlj.org