

January 2024

Dear Adult Confirmation Candidates:

Thank you for registering for Confirmation at St Paul Cathedral. Confirmation will take place on **Sun May 5, 2024. 1:00pm at the Spanish Mass. For those wanting to be confirmed in English, that ceremony will take place Sunday May 12, 2024 at the 7:00pm Lifeteen Mass.**

We will have 1 'in-person' class of instruction that will also be our rehearsal, that will take on Wed May 1st at 6:00pm in St Paul Cathedral Church. Both you and your sponsor need to be at this class.

In addition to the in person instruction, we are enclosing materials for you to have a better understanding of the Sacrament you are receiving. Please sign into **www.formed.org** for many free resources to assist you in your faith. FORMED is like Netflix for Catholics. See attached page. This will be your main instruction and preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Please take this opportunity to get the most out of what our Catholic faith has to offer.

Confirmation is more than just a 'requirement' for becoming a godparent, sponsor for Confirmation or pre-requisite for Marriage. It is an outward sign instituted by God to give YOU grace. The Sacrament of Confirmation is an important occasion in a person's Catholic Faith and should be received with purpose and commitment to actively continue your faith journey.

Receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation without the desire or intention to grow in your faith, would render the Sacrament less effective, and would be a waste of time. Those preparing for Confirmation are strongly encouraged to go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation prior to the Sacrament of Confirmation. Especially if it has been a long time since you have been to Confession.

Reconciliation is celebrated at the Cathedral each **Saturday @ 4pm** or by appointment. Other parishes should have reconciliation services on Saturdays as well. If it has been a long time since you have gone to the Sacrament of confession (months, or years), I would recommend checking out the program on formed.org called FORGIVEN. Please refer also the examination of conscience enclosed.

Those preparing for Confirmation should be regularly participating in mass on Sundays. If you have been away from the Church, I would recommend checking out the program on formed.org called PRESENCE.

Our weekend Mass times are **Saturday** Vigil-5:30PM & 7:00PM (Spanish)
Sunday-7:00AM, 9:00AM, 11:00AM, 1:00PM (Spanish) & 7:00PM (Life Teen).

Continued on back....

If you have not already done so, please bring to the parish office ASAP:

1. *A copy of your Baptismal Certificate (your baptismal cert. can be faxed to St Paul Cathedral 509-453-7497) or emailed to **stpaulfeteen@hotmail.com***
2. *Your chosen Confirmation Name (usually a saint OR you can choose your first name. Still time to decide)*
3. *Your Sponsor Form (filled out by your sponsor)*

Enclosed is information regarding Choosing a Confirmation Name (you can use your own name), Choosing a Sponsor/Role of a Sponsor and form for your sponsor to fill out. **Please fill out necessary forms and return to St Paul Cathedral at your earliest convenience.**

Attire: For the ceremony, candidates for Confirmation, whether male or female, should **not** be dressed casually as if for school or some recreational event. Ladies should be **modestly dressed** in keeping with the importance of the occasion. **Low cut dresses or spaghetti straps would not be appropriate.** Gentleman's attire should be keeping with the importance of the occasion, though coat and tie are *not* required. **Chewing gum should be disposed of before Mass. You will NOT need to bring a bible, rosary or candle for the ceremony.**

If you have any questions (regarding Confirmation or preparation) before then, please feel free to call me or e-mail me at stpaulfeteen@hotmail.com . I will be happy to answer any questions you may have. The Parish Ph # is **575-3713**. My **direct line** is **509-902-7150**.

Look forward to having you be confirmed at St Paul Cathedral.

Shawn Exner
Confirmation Coordinator

for members of St Paul Cathedral only

Include Baptismal Certificate with this form.

At 1:00pm Spanish Mass

NAME _____ **ph #** _____ **home** _____ **cell** _____

ADDRESS _____
Street address City Zip code

BIRTHDATE _____ *Please attach copy of Baptismal Certificate.*
 Month Day Year

Are you a registered member of St Paul Cathedral?: _____

If you are a member of another parish, please prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation in the parish you regularly attend.

If you are member of St Paul Cathedral, but have NOT registered as a member, come into the Cathedral Offices (15 S 12th Ave) to officially become a member of our parish family.

Have your Sponsor fill out Sponsor Form and return to it to St Paul's.

“Confirmation is a gift from God and helps us to live as Christians.” Pope Francis

“The Holy Spirit truly transforms us and wants to transform, also through us, the world in which we live.” **Pope Francis**

“The sacrament of Confirmation strengthens Baptism and pours out the Holy Spirit upon you in abundance. You yourselves, full of gratitude, now have the possibility of accepting his important gifts that help you on your way through life to become faithful and courageous witnesses of Jesus.”
Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

“Receive the sacrament of Penance and Confession: it is an encounter with Jesus who forgives our sins and helps us to do good. Receiving the gift, starting out anew is a great gift in life, knowing that I am free, that I can start again, that everything is forgiven. Then do not omit your personal, daily prayer. Learn to converse with the Lord, confide in him, tell him of your joys and anxieties and ask him for enlightenment and support for your journey.”

SPONSOR FORM

Sponsors are people who you can rely on during your faith journey. They should be people with a deep commitment to the Catholic faith and who are active, confirmed members of their parish. They should be willing to listen to you, help you answer questions, and be willing to share their faith and example with you. *PLEASE PRINT*
Due to limited space at the ceremony, you can only have ONE SPONSOR

SPONSOR'S NAME _____

NAME OF CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE _____

SPONSOR'S PHONE # _____

Name of home parish: _____ CITY _____

I am a practicing Catholic in both word and deed: Yes No

I am a fully initiated Catholic, having received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation Yes No

The sponsor for any candidate may be male or female and is to be sufficiently mature, a practicing Catholic, who has been confirmed and has not been prohibited by law from exercising the role of sponsor. A godparent is not only allowed, but is in fact desired, so as to emphasize the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation." (Canon 893)

CHOOSING A SPONSOR

Why A Sponsor? From the earliest days of the Church, those seeking communion with the Church, were supported by specific people chosen from the community. At your Baptism, those significant people were your parents and godparents (your baptismal sponsors) who promised that you would be raised in the faith. They professed their faith because you could not speak for yourself. Your parents accepted the responsibility of training you in the practice of the faith. Your godparents promised to help your parents. In Confirmation, you will speak for yourself; you will renew your baptismal promises. You will be supported by a sponsor who will stand with you and present you to the bishop for Confirmation.

Choosing a Sponsor The Church encourages you to choose, if possible, one of your baptismal godparents to be your sponsor for Confirmation because this expresses more clearly the link between your Baptism and Confirmation. This person would be a good choice if he/she: Has been close enough to you to have been supportive of your life so far; Is a baptized Catholic who has received Eucharist and has been confirmed; Is a practicing Catholic who participates in the Eucharistic celebration every Sunday. Lives a good Catholic life. Is at least 16 years of age. You cannot have your parents be your sponsor. It is the responsibility of the sponsor to show you the place of the gospel in his/her own life and in society, to help you with questions, doubts and anxieties, to watch over the progress of your walk of faith. The sponsor's responsibilities remain important when you may need help in order to remain faithful to your baptismal promises.

The Role of a Sponsor The person you ask to be your sponsor, should know you well enough to be able to testify, by his/her presence before the community, that you are someone who wishes to be fully incorporated into the Church as a believing, practicing Catholic; that you are one who takes part faithfully in the Church's worship, witness, and mission. When you are anointed with chrism during Confirmation, your sponsor will be beside you with a hand placed on your shoulder. This is a sign of your spiritual relationship. If you have not yet chosen your sponsor, now is an excellent time to think about your choice. Ask yourself: Is this person someone with whom I feel comfortable? Does this person live near enough to me to be able to truly be a guide and a support? Will this person be willing and able to be my sponsor - to take an active role in my faith life? Is this person a good role model of living a good, Catholic life? You are encouraged to choose a sponsor who will be able to attend the preparation classes. In this way, the sponsor will truly be able to mentor you in your faith. If it is not possible for the sponsor to attend the classes (as in the case of a relative or friend who lives at a distance), it would be desirable for a proxy sponsor to attend the preparation classes with you.

Why do we choose a Saint's name at Confirmation?

What is the purpose?

Answer: The receiving of a name at Confirmation has a number of different sources in the history of the Church. But the biggest one comes from the idea of a name being associated with a change of life.

When Jesus told Simon that his new name was now Peter (Matthew 16:18), it was because his role was changing and he was going to be asked to take on a role of leadership. When Saul had his great conversion, the risen Lord gave him the name Paul (Acts 13:9). And there are a number of others that we see this happen to as well because there is a power in a name.

If we look back at the Old Testament, to name someone was to have ownership of them, which is why when Moses asked God in the burning bush who was sending him to Pharaoh, God didn't give him his name, He gave him his title, "I am who am" (Exodus 3:14).

So to take on a new name at confirmation also carries with it the idea that you are asking for the Lord to change you. To take ownership of you like He's never done before and to live your faith more fully and with more life than you ever could've imagined. The name of the saint also should have some significance to you, that particular saint is an example of the type of holiness you would like. Some people take St. Francis because they want to be kind to animals, or some people take St. Joseph because they want to be as holy as he was, or some people take St. Monica because she had such patience with her children, and the list could go on.

The idea is to pick somebody who says something about you. And when you stand before the Bishop the day of your Confirmation and you tell him your name, say it with a pride and with a conviction and with knowledge that the Holy Spirit is going to change you forever.



www.formed.org are your ONLINE CLASSES in preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Formed.org is a Catholic streaming service.

We strongly encourage everyone to sign up for it (it's FREE, just need an email address). Formed.org has movies, shows, prayers, audio & digital books, and much, much more including many titles in Spanish.

There are many excellent resources to watch. Please watch these two particular programs on Formed as part of your confirmation prep:



"The Search". There are 7 Episodes, each about 25 min long. We will be watching some of these episodes at Confirmation Classes. This program is EXCELLENT.



"Never Alone-Life with the Holy Spirit". In Confirmation, you receive the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit. This program will help you understand our need for the Holy Spirit in our lives. Also available in Spanish.

Other great programs to help you grow in your faith, and understanding of the importance of the Eucharist, Marriage and Confession.

PRESENCE: The Mystery of the Eucharist Although the Eucharist appears to be simple bread and wine, it is actually the "source and summit" of the Christian life. Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist explores the truth and beauty of Christ's real presence in the Eucharist, from its origins in Sacred Scripture, to its profound role in

BELOVED uncovers the mystery and the meaning of the **sacrament of marriage**. What if marriage is more than you think it is? What if God has woven into the very fabric of your humanity a purposeful need and desire that can only be fulfilled in your marriage? BELOVED invites all couples to experience firsthand the wonder, mystery, and joy behind that first "I do" ... whether you said it last year or many years ago or are pre-

¿Te gustaría registrarte en FORMED a través de tu parroquia u organización?

1. Visita FORMED.org
2. Presiona "Sign Up"
3. Selecciona "I Belong to a Parish or Organization"
4. Ingresa el nombre de tu Parroquia o Código Postal
5. Ingresa tu email, y listo ¡Ya ingresaste!

Want to create a new FORMED account with your parish or group?

1. Visit FORMED.org
2. Click Sign Up
3. Select "I Belong to a Parish or Organization"
4. Find your parish by name, zip, or parish code
5. Enter your email - and you're in!



The Corporal Works of Mercy

Have I neglected to do the following when circumstances obliged me?

1. Feed the hungry.
2. Give drink to the thirsty.
3. Clothe the naked.
4. Shelter the homeless.
5. Visit the sick.
6. Visit the imprisoned.
7. Bury the dead.

Mortal Sins Must Be Confessed

You are only obligated to confess mortal sins, although confession of venial sins is very helpful in receiving the grace to avoid sin in the future and for advancing in holiness.

For a sin to be mortal, three conditions must be met (in bold): "Mortal sin is sin whose object is grave matter and which is also committed with full knowledge and deliberate consent." (CCC 1857; emphasis added)

Steps to a Good Confession

1. Examine your conscience.
2. Be repentant of your sins.
3. Confess your sins to the priest in number and kind, being sure to confess all mortal sins.
4. Make an act of contrition, receive absolution from the priest, and resolve to sin no more.
5. Do the penance the priest gives you.

How to Go to Confession

- Begin with the Sign of the Cross.
- Then say, "Forgive me, Father, for I have sinned. It has been _____ days/weeks/months/years since my last confession."
- Tell the priest your sins and how many times you committed each (to the best of your memory), beginning with any mortal sins and any sins you are particularly struggling with.
- The priest will give you some advice and assign you a penance.
- You then make the Act of Contrition.
- The priest will give you absolution and then dismiss you.

Act of Contrition

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended you, and I detest all of my sins, because I dread the loss of heaven and the pains of hell, but most of all because they have offended you, my God, who are all-good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve with the help of your grace, to sin no more, to do penance, and to avoid the near occasions of sin. Amen.

ConfirmationStudy.com

Fourth Commandment

"Honor your father and your mother." – Exodus 20:12

- Have I failed to show love and respect to my parents?
- Have I lied to, deceived, or disobeyed them?
- Have I gotten angry, talked back, or used profanity at them?
- Have I failed to be grateful for the sacrifices they have made for my family?
- Have I fulfilled all the duties and responsibilities I have toward my parents and family?
- Have I been critical of them to others?
- Do I respect and obey others who have a legitimate role of authority in my life?

Fifth Commandment

"You shall not kill." – Exodus 20:13

- Have I killed or harmed someone physically, mentally, or verbally?
- Am I harming myself (and setting a bad example for others) by taking drugs or abusing alcohol?
- Have I harmed someone through insults or bullying?
- Have I mutilated or harmed my body?
- Have I tried to commit suicide?
- Did I have an abortion?
- Have I encouraged, helped, or in any way participated in someone else's abortion?
- Have I easily lost my temper or shown anger toward someone?
- Have I fostered a grudge or failed to forgive another?

Sixth and Ninth Commandments

"You shall not commit adultery." – Exodus 20:14

"You shall not covet your neighbor's wife." – Exodus 20:17

- Do I treat the body as a temple of the Holy Spirit, respecting the sexual dignity of others and myself?
- Have I willfully engaged in impure thoughts or desires?
- Have I looked at pornographic images or videos?
- Have I watched impure TV shows or movies?
- Have I committed impure acts by myself (i.e., committed the sin of masturbation)?
- Have I committed impure acts with another or led others to commit impure acts?
- Have I dressed or acted immodestly, possibly leading others to sin?
- Have I practiced any form of contraception?

A Guide to Making an EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE and a Good Confession

Preparing for Confession

- Find a quiet place to pray and think.
- Ask the Holy Spirit in prayer to help you remember your sins.
- Use the questions below as a guide.
- Remember to include sins of omission—that is, things you *should* have done but did not.

Examination of Conscience

First, consider how well you have kept the Ten Commandments.

First Commandment

"I am the lord your God. ... You shall have no other gods before me." – Exodus 20:2-3

- Do I put other things, activities, or people before God?
- Have I spent time with God each day in prayer?
- Do I accept all of God's teaching or just the parts I find convenient?
- Have I practiced or engaged in occult practices, such as consulting horoscopes, tarot cards, fortune telling, or "Ouija" boards?
- Have I denied my faith in any ways?
- Have I ever received Holy Communion in the state of mortal sin?

Second Commandment

"You shall not take the name of the lord your God in vain." – Exodus 20:7

- Do I always show respect and reverence for God's name?
- Have I used God's name as a curse, out of anger, or in a careless way?
- Have I irreverently spoken about God or about any sacred person, place, or thing?
- Have I done my best to fulfill any promises in which I invoked God's name (oaths)?

Third Commandment

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy." – Exodus 20:8

- Have I deliberately missed Mass on a Sunday or holy day of obligation without just cause (for example, a serious illness)?
- Do I actively and fully participate at Mass?
- Have I carelessly arrived late or left early from Mass without a serious reason?
- Have I kept the Eucharistic fast before Mass (i.e., no food or drink—except water—for one hour before receiving Holy Communion)?

Seventh and Tenth Commandments

"You shall not steal." – Exodus 20:15

"You shall not covet your neighbor's house." – Exodus 20:17

- Have I stolen anything or helped or encouraged anyone else to steal?
- If I have stolen something, have I made restitution to its owner?
- Have I damaged another's property without acknowledging and making restitution?
- Have I been greedy or overly attached to the things of the world?
- Have I carelessly wasted time at home, at school, or at work?
- Have I failed to help others—especially the poor—by neglecting to share what I have?
- Have I honored my debts?

Eighth Commandment

"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor." – Exodus 20:16

- Have I lied?
- Have I revealed the faults of others without just cause?
- Have I gossiped about others?
- Have I failed to honor a confidence or secret entrusted to me?
- Have I damaged another's reputation through lies or accusations?
- Have I failed to defend someone's good name?

The Seven Deadly Sins and the Opposite Virtues

Am I guilty of any of the following sins? Consider how you can grow in the opposing virtue. (See CCC 1866.)

Sin	Virtue	Sin	Virtue
1. Pride	Humility	5. Gluttony	Temperance
2. Greed	Generosity	6. Envy	Kindness
3. Lust	Chastity	7. Sloth	Diligence (Persistence)
4. Anger	Patience (Meekness)		

The Spiritual Works of Mercy

By considering the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy we can remember times we may have committed sins of omission. We can also be reminded of ways in which we can grow in holiness. Have I neglected to do the following when circumstances obliged me?

1. Counsel the doubtful.
2. Instruct the ignorant.
3. Admonish sinners.
4. Comfort the sorrowful.
5. Bear wrongs patiently.
6. Forgive all injuries.
7. Pray for the living and the dead.

Confirmación

Fortalecidos por el Espíritu, llamados a la acción



Introducción

La Confirmación enriquece a los bautizados con la fuerza del Espíritu Santo para que puedan dar mejor testimonio de Cristo en palabra y obra (*Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica* 1285). Ungidos por el Espíritu Santo en la Confirmación, los cristianos fortalecen sus lazos con la Iglesia y se equipan mejor para llevar a cabo la misión de amor y servicio de la Iglesia.

En la Confirmación, nuestra fe y pertenencia al cuerpo de Cristo es confirmada, o reforzada. En el rito del Bautismo nos convertimos en nuevos miembros del cuerpo de Cristo, pero nuestro viaje no termina ahí. La decisión de ser bautizados es seguida de un continuo crecimiento, aprendizaje y testimonio como miembros del cuerpo de Cristo. Nuestro deseo de seguir creciendo y desarrollándonos como cristianos encuentra su expresión en la Confirmación, en que renovamos nuestras promesas bautismales y recibimos de una nueva manera el don del Espíritu Santo, lo cual refuerza nuestro "vínculo" con la Iglesia y sus miembros (*Catecismo* 1316 y Juan Pablo II, *Redemptoris Missio* 26).

La Confirmación nos conecta a una comunidad mayor. La relación del obispo (quien preside el rito de la Confirmación) con la comunidad de la Iglesia en un área determinada nos recuerda nuestra conexión a la comunidad mayor de la iglesia, que es global. Por lo tanto, la Confirmación nos recuerda que pertenecemos a la Iglesia Universal y a una comunidad parroquial local (*Catecismo* 1309). El crisma, el óleo sagrado utilizado durante la Confirmación, señala que la comunidad comparte el Espíritu, ya que el mismo óleo se utiliza durante el Bautismo y para ungir a obispos y sacerdotes durante el sacramento del Orden. El óleo para la Unción de los enfermos también es consagrado durante Semana Santa. El símbolo del óleo nos recuerda la acción del Espíritu Santo sobre nosotros como miembros de la familia de la Iglesia.

Confirmación: Fortalecidos por el Espíritu, llamados a la acción

Confirmación nos fortalece para el servicio permanente en el Cuerpo de Cristo en la Iglesia y en el mundo. Nos prepara para ser participantes activos en la misión de la Iglesia y dar "testimonio de la fe cristiana por la palabra acompañada de las obras" (*Catecismo*, 1316). Por último, el Espíritu nos envía como trabajadores de la viña e instrumentos del Espíritu Santo en la renovación de la tierra y la promoción del Reino de Dios de justicia y paz.

Por lo tanto, la Confirmación es no sólo una *unción*, sino también *recibir la misión de vivir nuestra fe en el mundo*. Ya estamos llamados a la misión en virtud de nuestro Bautismo, pero en la Confirmación recibimos los dones del Espíritu (como los apóstoles en Hechos 2) para "un mayor testimonio evangélico en el mundo" (Benedicto XVI, *Sacramentum Caritatis* 17). Como discípulos y testigos de Cristo en la Iglesia y en el mundo (*Catecismo* 1319), somos enviados para actuar en nombre de los pobres y vulnerables, promoviendo la vida y la dignidad de todo ser humano.

El Espíritu Santo nos inspira a la acción evangélica que incluye el desarrollo humano y el trabajo para acabar con la injusticia. El Espíritu Santo inspira la labor de evangelización, que incluye el trabajo no sólo para el bienestar espiritual de todos los pueblos, sino también la evangelización de sistemas y culturas (Juan Pablo II, *Redemptoris Missio* 42, 65). La actividad misionera de la Iglesia incluye "el compromiso por la paz, el desarrollo y la liberación de los pueblos; los derechos del hombre y de los pueblos, sobre todo los de las minorías; la promoción de la mujer y del niño; la salvaguardia de la creación", y muchas otras áreas de acción en el mundo (*Redemptoris Missio* 37).

Además, la acción inspirada por el Espíritu Santo nos llama a "dar testimonio de Cristo, asumiendo posiciones valientes y proféticas ante la corrupción del poder político o económico". El Espíritu también "supera las fronteras y las divisiones de raza, casta e ideología" y hace al cristiano en misión un "signo del amor de Dios en el mundo, que es amor sin exclusión ni preferencia" (*Redemptoris Missio* 43, 89).

La Confirmación nos llama a compartir la misión de Cristo de promover la vida y la dignidad. Los bautizados, ungidos por el Espíritu Santo, se incorporan a Cristo, que es sacerdote, profeta y rey, y son llamados a compartir su misión (*Catecismo* 1241).



Compartimos la misión sacerdotal de Cristo dándonos diariamente en unión con el supremo sacrificio de Cristo en la cruz. Como **profetas**, anunciamos el Reino de Dios tanto en palabra como en obra, y damos testimonio del Evangelio en la familia, la vida social y la comunidad, y en nuestro compromiso con la vida y dignidad humana. Compartimos la **misión regia** buscando el reino de la justicia de Dios en el mundo. Hacemos esto cuando superamos el reino del pecado, damos de nosotros mismos, reconocemos a Jesús en "el más insignificante de mis hermanos" (Mt 25:40) y trabajamos por la justicia y la paz.

Todos los ungidos por el Espíritu en el Bautismo y la Confirmación comparten la misión de Cristo en Lucas 4:18: "El Espíritu del Señor está sobre mí; por lo cual me ha ungido para evangelizar a los pobres, me ha enviado a proclamar la liberación a los cautivos y la vista a los ciegos, a poner en libertad a los oprimidos, y a proclamar el año de gracia del Señor" (*Christifideles Laici* 13-14).

¡Conoce los otros Sacramentos!

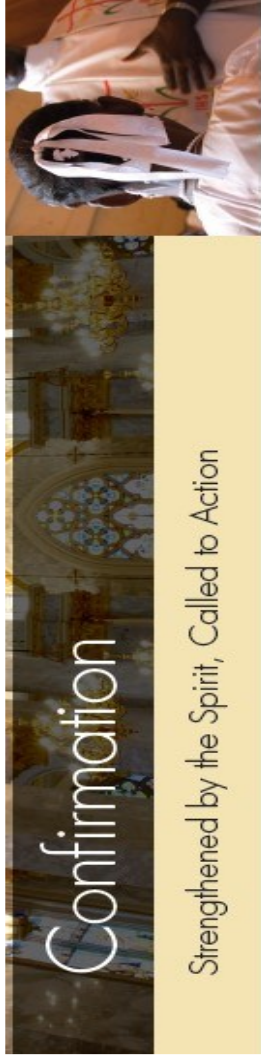
Vista "Resources and Tools" en www.usccb.org/faith

Preguntas para la reflexión

- *Pertenencia a la comunidad.* ¿Qué significa ser parte del Cuerpo de Cristo?
- *Dones del espíritu.* ¿Qué dones has recibido? ¿Cómo estás llamado a utilizar esos dones para beneficiar a otros?
- *Escuchar el llamado de Dios.* ¿Quién estás llamado a ser? ¿Qué estás llamado a hacer con tu vida?
- *Misión en el mundo.* ¿Cuál es la misión de la Iglesia? ¿Cuál es tu papel en llevarla a cabo? ¿Qué comisión has recibido?
- *El testimonio de los santos.* ¿Cómo te inspiran las vidas de los santos a "desprender el buen olor de Cristo"?

Confirmation

Strengthened by the Spirit, Called to Action



Confirmation enriches the baptized with the strength of the Holy Spirit so that they can better witness to Christ in word and deed (Catechism of the Catholic Church [CCC], no. 1285). Anointed by the Holy Spirit at Confirmation, Christians strengthen their bond with the Church and become better equipped to carry out the Church's mission of love and service.

At Confirmation, our faith and membership in the Body of Christ is confirmed, or strengthened.

In the Rite of Baptism, we become new members of the Body of Christ, but our journey does not end there. The decision to be baptized is followed by continued growth, learning, and witness as members of the Body of Christ. Our desire to continue to grow and develop as Christians finds expression in Confirmation, when we renew our baptismal promises and receive in a new way the gift of the Holy Spirit, which strengthens our "bond" with the Church and its members (CCC, no. 1316, and Pope John Paul II, *Redemptoris Missio* [On the Permanent Validity of the Church's Missionary Mandate], no. 26).

Confirmation connects us to a larger community.

The relationship of the bishop (who presides over the Rite of Confirmation) with the church community in a given area reminds us of our connection to the larger community of the Church, which is global. Thus, Confirmation reminds us that we belong to the Universal Church and to a local parish community (CCC, no. 1309). The sacred Chrism oil used during Confirmation points to the community's sharing of the Spirit, since the same oil is used during Baptism and to anoint bishops and priests during the Sacrament of Holy Orders. Oil for the Anointing of the Sick is also consecrated during Holy Week. The symbol of oil reminds us of the action of the Holy Spirit upon us as members in the Church family.

At Confirmation, we receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

In the Gospels, the same Spirit that descended on Jesus during Baptism descends on the Apostles at Pentecost (CCC, nos. 1285-1287). The readings and homily we hear at Confirmation remind us that this same Spirit is present to us today. At Confirmation, we receive diverse spiritual gifts that work together for the "common good" and "the building up of the Church, to the well-being of humanity and to the needs of the world" (Pope John Paul II, *Christifideles laici* [The Vocation and the Mission of the Lay Faithful in the Church and in the World], no. 24). At Confirmation, we pray for an increase of the gifts of the Spirit in our own lives in order to serve the cause of justice and peace in Church and world.

The Spirit moves us to imitate the love and service of Christ and the saints.

In preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, we often perform many hours of service to help those in need. In doing so, we practice love and service in imitation of the saints whose names we often take at Confirmation. Anointed at Confirmation, we are further strengthened to live lives that give off "the aroma of Christ" as did the holy saints (CCC, no. 1294). The sacred Chrism is mixed with fragrant spices precisely to symbolize this "aroma."

The Holy Spirit pours love into our hearts so that we can become "instruments of grace" in order to "pour forth God's charity and to weave networks of charity" in the world (Pope Benedict XVI, *Caritas in Veritate*

[*Charity in Truth*], no. 5). The Holy Spirit "harmonizes" our hearts with Christ's heart and moves us to love others as Christ loved when he washed the disciples' feet and gave his life for us (Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est* [God Is Love], no. 19).

The Holy Spirit inspires us to Gospel action that includes human development and work to end injustice.

The Holy Spirit inspires the work of evangelization, which includes work not only for all peoples' spiritual well-being, but also the evangelization of systems and cultures (Pope John Paul II, *Redemptoris Missio*, nos. 42, 65). The Church's missionary activity includes a "commitment to peace, development and the liberation of peoples; the rights of individuals and peoples, especially those of minorities; the advancement of women and children; safeguarding the created world," and many other areas of action in the world (Redemptoris Missio, no. 37).

In addition, action inspired by the Holy Spirit calls us to "bear witness to Christ by taking courageous and prophetic stands in the face of the corruption of political or economic power." The Spirit also "overcomes barriers and divisions of race, caste, or ideology" and makes the Christian-omission into "a sign of God's love in the world—a love without exclusion or partiality" (Redemptoris Missio, nos. 43, 89).

Confirmation calls us to share Christ's mission to promote life and dignity.

The baptized, anointed by the Holy Spirit, are incorporated into Christ, who is priest, prophet, and king, and called to share in his mission (CCC, no. 1241). We share Christ's priestly mission by giving of ourselves daily in union with Christ's supreme sacrifice on the Cross. As prophets, we announce the Kingdom of God in both word and deed and we witness to the Gospel in family, social life, and community, and in our commitment to human life and dignity. We share the **kingly** mission by seeking God's Kingdom of justice in the world. We do this when we overcome the kingdom of sin, give of ourselves, recognize Jesus in "the least of these" (cf. Mt 25:40), and work for justice and peace.

All those anointed by the Spirit at Baptism and Confirmation share Christ's mission in Luke 4:18-19: "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" [see also *Christifideles laici*, nos. 13-14].

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- **Membership in the community.** What does it mean to be part of the Body of Christ?
- **Gifts of the Spirit.** What gifts have you been given? How are you called to use those gifts to benefit others?
- **Listening to God's call.** Who are you called to be? What are you called to do with your life?
- **Mission in the world.** What is the mission of the Church? What is your role in carrying it out? To what are you commissioned?
- **The witness of the saints.** How do the lives of the saints inspire you to "give off the aroma of Christ"?