



# The Diocese of Fargo

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## Confirmation Handbook for Parents





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Nicolas Poussin (1640) The Confirmation, Florence*



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September 23, 2013

Dear Parents,

It is through the sacraments that the life of Jesus touches us in a most unique and intimate way and has a profound transforming effect in our lives. I share with you my hope that your child will come to a deeper knowledge of the love of God given especially in the sacrament of Confirmation.

As you know, in the Diocese of Fargo the sacrament of Confirmation has been restored to its original order in the sacraments of initiation, that is, received after Baptism but before First Eucharist. Therefore, at a young age your child will be a fully initiated member of the Catholic Church. By the grace given in Baptism and strengthened in Confirmation, the Holy Spirit will already be forming your child into a disciple of Jesus Christ. As your child continues to grow in faith and in the grace of Baptism, the gifts of the Holy Spirit will be at work within them, cultivating virtue and leading them to holiness. These same gifts will also enlighten your child's soul, allowing them to understand the truths of our Faith more deeply and empowering them to live their Faith and witness that Faith to others.

The sacrament of Confirmation is not the end of your child's religious education, but actually begins a new and important chapter in their faith formation. As parents, you are co-creators with God and therefore have the right and privilege to be the primary educators of your children in the Faith. This most precious gift of Faith is what was asked of you when you presented your child for Baptism, when you promised that you would raise your child in the Faith. It is my sincere hope that you and your family will come to a deeper intimacy with Jesus through the working of the Holy Spirit. Through this witness, may your child respond to grace and live out the call of Jesus to be one of His disciples.

This handbook is provided to assist you as you prepare your child to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. In it you will find a summary of the key ideas to review with your child, some resources, and some helpful tips to assist you in your role as a Catholic parent. This is only a beginning to get you started. I highly recommend other resources, such as those given to you by your parish, but most especially the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

I pray that the wonderful gift of Faith will grow in your child and in your family, and I will pray for you as you join in the preparation of your child for the sacrament of Confirmation. May God bless you and your family!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend John Folda  
Bishop of Fargo

# Parent Responsibilities for Sacramental Preparation

The Diocese of Fargo calls upon parents to help suitably prepare their children for reception of the sacraments. The home is where the faith is developed and lived out. Each parent models to their child what the life of faith looks like. The following will help you to properly assist your child in this time of sacramental preparation.

- Attend Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation with your children.
- Provide proof of Baptism to the parish.
- Attend parent sessions.
- Have your child attend the sacramental retreat.
- Attend the Interview. Prior to the celebration of each of the sacraments, the parish priest or designated catechist will interview your child to assess his or her readiness and intention for receiving the sacrament. Ideally, both parents are to be present during the interview so that you can help your child in their final preparations and show your support.
- Do home lessons and tasks with your child to foster love and understanding for the Faith.
- Make sure your child attends the religious education sessions offered by your parish and does any assigned homework.
- At home, work on memorizing prayers. Explain the meaning of the prayers to your child.
- Have family prayer time together daily.
- Have a Bible and a *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, as well as religious articles such as a crucifix, holy water and sacred images in the home.
- Go to Reconciliation on a regular basis. Parents model this by their personal participation in the sacrament. We recommend that once your child has made their First Reconciliation, that your family go back and receive this grace and forgiveness at least once a month.

# The Invitation

## The Invitation

We begin by recognizing that we have a desire for God written in our human hearts. God calls us and draws us to Him. By grace we respond freely to choose Him and be in communion with Him. In this is our true peace and happiness.

In Baptism we are given the gift to be partakers of divine life as the Holy Trinity comes to dwell in each of us and his gifts are poured forth. In this we form an intimate relationship with the Blessed Trinity that deepens as we nourish our spiritual life through all that the church has to offer.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



*"Yesterday is the past, tomorrow is the future, but today is a gift. That's why it's called the present."*

*from JoyfulNoiseletter.com  
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## The Sacrament of Confirmation

### What is the Sacrament of Confirmation?

Confirmation is the sacrament that deepens and strengthens the gifts of the Holy Spirit given to us in our Baptism. It is one of the sacraments of initiation that makes us full members of the Church. When you first brought your child to receive the sacrament of Baptism you heard the words of the priest, "Dearly beloved, these children have been reborn in baptism. They are now called children of God. In Confirmation they will receive the fullness of God's Spirit. In Holy Communion they will share the banquet of Christ's sacrifice." You are fulfilling those words as you bring your child for Confirmation.

We received the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in Baptism. In the gift of Confirmation, those gifts of the Holy Spirit are intensified to bring us to holiness; in the Eucharist we are given the gift of the Body and Blood of Jesus to nourish us as we journey through this life. The sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and First Eucharist complete our initiation into becoming full members of Christ Church.

## **The Passion, Death, Resurrection**

We remember the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus during the Holy Triduum, which ends the season of Lent. During the Last Supper, Jesus turned the bread into His Body and the wine into His Blood. This mystery continued to unfold the next day with the death of Jesus, as he offers himself up for crucifixion. The third day was the climax of the whole event: Jesus was raised from the dead! Jesus spent 40 days with His apostles teaching them to bring the Gospel message to all people, baptizing them in the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. But the story did not end there. Jesus said to His apostles before ascending into heaven that the Advocate would come. The Advocate is the Third Person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit. It was on the day of Pentecost that the Holy Spirit came upon the Church.

Your child may not completely understand why Jesus had to suffer and die for us, but you can help your child see that it is out of love that He offered to suffer and die for us so that we can be with God in heaven for ever. This was the only way that the gates of heaven could be open for us. This is the greatest act of love there is. Jesus did not abandon us; God has sent us the Holy Spirit to be with us always.

## **The Story of Pentecost**

Jesus spent 40 days with His disciples after the Resurrection. Jesus told his disciples that they would they receive power from the Holy Spirit to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth. After He ascended into heaven, the apostles then returned to Jerusalem to the upper room and with Mary, the mother of Jesus, waited in prayer for the arrival of the Holy Spirit.



The story of Pentecost is recounted in the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 2:1-13) giving us a vivid image of what this amazing event must have been like. It begins by telling us that they were all gathered in one place when suddenly a noise from the sky, like a strong driving wind, filled the entire house! Then there appeared what was like flames of fire that parted and then appeared over each of their heads. They became filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different languages. There was a large crowd outside who heard the loud rush of wind and came to see what it was. They witnessed the power of the Holy Spirit when they could understand the apostles proclaiming Jesus Christ in their own language. They were astounded! Peter then gave a speech to explain to them what had just happened. He gave to the people a catechesis about Jesus. It is by the gift of the Holy Spirit that the apostles were given the mission to be witnesses of Jesus Christ and to proclaim to the world our salvation through Him. This is the same gift that is given to each one of us in our Confirmation, young or old, we are called to be witnesses of Jesus Christ to others. The Holy Spirit gives us the power to do this.

## **Confirmation Received at a Young Age**

The age of reception of Confirmation has changed many times through the centuries and again most recently in the last decade. The Diocese has restored the tradition of receiving the sacraments in the order of initiation into the Church: Baptism, Confirmation and then the Eucharist, as the summit of the completion. You may wonder how your child is going to use the gift of the Holy Spirit in Confirmation to proclaim Jesus Christ to others just like the apostles did. There are examples of saints who were confirmed at a young age.

### **St. Therese of Lisieux**

St. Therese of Lisieux was born January 2, 1873 in a small town in France. Therese was confirmed on June 14, 1884 at the age of 11. She writes in her diary about being prepared with great care to receive the visit of the Holy Spirit and she could not understand why greater attention was not given to this sacrament. She called it the sacrament of love, "having eternally on my forehead the mysterious cross the bishop makes when conferring this sacrament." She also said she was hoping to feel a strong wind, but instead experienced a light breeze like that of the prophet Elijah heard on Mt. Horeb. She also wrote, "on that day I received the strength to suffer." Therese was writing about the strength she received from the gifts of the Holy Spirit, especially the gifts of fortitude and courage. For when suffering came her way, she stayed strong in her hope and love for Jesus and did not give in to despair or depression.





### **St. Dominic Savio**

St. Dominic Savio was born April 2, 1842 in Italy. He was confirmed one week after his 12<sup>th</sup> birthday. Dominic showed great piety as he always prayerfully prepared himself before and after Mass. He would go to the sacrament of Reconciliation often, as he knew how this pleased the Lord. He proclaimed to his teacher that Jesus and Mary were his friends. He loved Jesus and Mary very much and he had a great zeal to share them with his school friends as he said, "If I could win all my schoolmates over to God, how happy I'd be!"

### **Venerable Antonietta Meo**

Venerable Antonietta Meo was born December 15, 1930. She was confirmed when she was 6 years old. Antonietta suffered with the terrible disease of bone cancer so she could not run and play like the other children. She also knew she would not live a long life as the disease got worse. However, even though her body was in pain her spirits were happy and joyful. Antonietta understood the gifts given to her in Confirmation, which she wrote about in letters to the Holy Spirit. Below you will find one she dictated to her mother.



*"Dear Holy Spirit in a few days I'll receive You with the Sacrament of Confirmation and I desire You so much and I can't wait for that day to come and give me all Your seven gifts, enlighten me, fill me with Your Grace and sanctify me. Dear Holy Spirit You who are Love that joins the Father to the Son join me to the Holy Trinity. Dear Holy Spirit tell Jesus I love Him very much and tell God the Father that I praise Him and I bless Him. Dear Holy Spirit Greetings and Kisses from Your dear Antonietta of Jesus."*  
(letter 160 of the 26th of April 1937)

## **The Saints and the Gift**

Even at a young age, these saints used the gifts given to them in Confirmation to proclaim Jesus Christ to the world. St. Therese did this in her quiet little way by her small acts of love and charity. St. Dominic had a great zeal to share his love of Jesus and Mary with his friends and Venerable Antonietta, in her suffering, shows us the way to love as Jesus loved us.

Parent  
tip

*"Can you read to me a story?"*

*Your child will have the opportunity to choose the name of a saint as their Confirmation name. They may also choose to keep their baptismal name as well. In any case, learning about the saints gives children holy and virtuous role models. There are many books and web sites that tell the stories of the saints that you can share with your child. One idea to help your child get to know the saints is to pick one saint a week and share their story with your child.*



## **The Novena to the Holy Spirit**

A novena is nine days of prayer for a special intention. The tradition of nine days of prayer comes from the nine days that Mary and the apostles waited in prayer before the coming of the Holy Spirit. Today there are many private novenas of prayer, but the one the Church has encouraged us to pray is the novena to the Holy Spirit, nine days before Pentecost and most especially before receiving the sacrament of Confirmation. The novena given to you in this book reveals the workings of the Holy Spirit as He pours out His gifts to us; Wisdom, Knowledge, Understanding, Fortitude, Courage, Fear of the Lord and Piety. In the resources section of this book you will find the novena that should be prayed with your children nine days before they receive the gift of the sacrament of Confirmation.

# The Rite of Confirmation

## How is my Child Confirmed?

In Confirmation preparation the emphasis is on developing a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church and to use the gifts of the Holy Spirit to be His witnesses. This is why the sacrament can be administered at the same Mass or close to the day where your child will receive their First Communion. These two sacraments together give your child the strength and nourishment to fulfill what Jesus has commanded us to do.

The Rite of Confirmation follows a tradition of “being called” for this mission. The candidates are first presented by name and asked to come forward. This signifies the desire of the candidates to live as Christians and to receive this once in a lifetime sacrament. In his homily, the bishop may ask the children some questions regarding their preparation.



The Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism (lower left), Confirmation (center) and Holy Communion (upper right)

## Renewal of Baptismal Promises

At this point the candidates renew the promises that were made on their behalf at their baptism. The bishop will ask “Do you renounce Satan, and all his works and empty promises?” The candidates will respond, “I do.” He will then go on to ask the candidates if they believe in the different truths of the Faith. These are the same truths of the Faith that we profess each Sunday in the Creed.

## Prayer over the Candidates

The Bishop will then invite everyone to join him as he prays to the Father that the Holy Spirit will pour out His gifts to His sons and daughters and anoint them to be more like Christ. Then the bishop extends his hands over the candidates and prays:

“Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who brought these your servants to new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, freeing them from sin: send upon them, O Lord, the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete; give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and fortitude, the spirit of knowledge and piety; fill them with the spirit of the fear of the Lord. Through Christ our Lord.”

## Gifts of the Holy Spirit

In this prayer the bishop is asking for a special outpouring of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. These special gifts are mentioned in the Old Testament, where Isaiah prophesied that a bud shall blossom from the stump of Jesse. Jesse was the father of King David and it is from David's line that Jesus is born. Isaiah mentions the gifts in his prophecy, "The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, a spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord, and his delight shall be the fear of the Lord." (Isaiah 11:2-3) To these the Church also adds the Gift of Piety.

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## The Laying on of Hands and Anointing with Chrism Oil

The actual sacrament of Confirmation takes place when the bishop lays his hands on each of the candidates and anoints them with the Chrism oil (if there is a large group, the bishop extends his hands over the entire group; however, he will anoint the children individually). The children will come before the bishop with their Confirmation sponsors. The sponsor will then announce their name to the bishop, either their baptismal name or the name of a saint they chose. The bishop will then proceed to trace the Sign of the Cross with the Chrism oil on their forehead saying, "Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit." Your child will respond, "Amen."

The bishop will then offer the sign of peace, just as Jesus did with His apostles after the Resurrection. He will say to each child, "Peace be with you." Your child's response is, "And with your spirit."



After the sacrament is conferred and if children are to receive Holy Communion the same day, the Mass continues as usual. As the Liturgy of the Eucharist proceeds your child will now anticipate the final sacrament of initiation: Holy Communion.

Parent  
tip

## Fan the Flame of the Holy Spirit

When your son or daughter is confirmed you may not notice a big difference in their behavior or hear them speaking in different languages (like what happened at Pentecost), but our Faith teaches us that a change has occurred by the reception of this sacrament. The gifts of the Holy Spirit will be "stirred up" and a quiet fire will begin to grow in their heart. This quiet fire will only grow into a burning stable flame by continued formation and by your encouragement, as you challenge your child in their daily life to use the gifts of the Holy Spirit and become more like Jesus Christ. You are the one who will either quench this quiet fire or fan the flame as it continues to grow so that Jesus can mold your child into a saint.



## **Activities & Resources**

**The resources on the following pages are some ways of helping you teach your child about the Sacrament of Confirmation.**

# Prayers for Third Grade

Here are some of the prayers parents should help their child to learn.

## Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## Our Father

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.

## Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace! the Lord is with thee; blessed are thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

## Glory Be

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

## Act of Contrition

*(your parish may suggest a different one)*

Oh My God, I am heartily sorry for having offended You, and I detest all my sins, because of Your just punishments, but most of all, because they offend 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 and to avoid the near occasions of sin. Amen.

## Prayers to the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of Your love. Send forth Your Spirit and they shall be created, and You shall renew the face of the earth.

O God, who did instruct the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant that by the gift of that same Spirit, we may be truly wise and ever rejoice in His consolation. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Prayer before Holy Communion

O my God, I firmly believe that you are truly present in the Holy Eucharist. I confess that I am a poor sinner and am not worthy to receive you. But you just say a word and my soul shall be healed, and then I can receive you into my soul.

## Prayer after Holy Communion

Lord Jesus, I believe that I have received your Body and Blood. I adore you. I praise you. I thank you. I love you. Thank you for giving yourself to me. Now I give myself to you, every part of my body that I may always love and live for you.

# Introduction to Prayer: Preparing your Child for Confirmation

For many people, children included, prayer begins by reciting prayer formulas, such as the “Our Father”, “Hail Mary”, “Glory Be” and bedtime prayers. Others might also include spontaneous petitions like “God bless mommy”, “God bless daddy”, and “God help me be good.” These prayers serve as a foundation of prayer for one’s entire life. It is a good starting point to grow from.

Prayer is raising one’s heart and mind to God. The life of prayer must not be reduced to reciting a certain list of prayers. Prayer is simple; its spending time with the One who created us, redeemed us, sanctified us, loves us and desires for us to be with Him forever.

“More intense prayer should prepare one to receive the strength and graces of the Holy Spirit with docility and readiness to act.” (CCC 1310) As a parent, your witness of prayer will be key to your child’s developing a more intense prayer life, not only to receive the sacraments, but for their entire life as a Christian. God’s design is for parents to teach their children to pray.

**PRAYER is  
spending time  
with the One  
who created us,  
redeemed us,  
sanctified us,  
loves us and  
desires for us  
to be with Him  
forever.**

## **How do I teach my child to pray?**

First, you teach your child by your example of a life of prayer, not only going to Mass on Sunday and regular Reconciliation, but also taking time to pray each day. Just like food nourishes our bodies, prayer nourishes our souls.

Second, help your child memorize and understand the prayers from the list of Third Grade Prayers.

## **What if I feel that I cannot teach my child to pray?**

Do not be afraid. There is no doubt that you will be able to teach your child to pray. God comes to us and tirelessly calls each one of us. Open your heart to Jesus. Through the Holy Spirit, God even helps us know what to pray. Begin by looking at Jesus. Jesus prays and Jesus teaches us how to pray. Furthermore, as parents, through the sacrament of Matrimony, the Holy Spirit will assist you in teaching your children to pray. Ask your priest for help; he loves bringing others to Jesus!

## **Where can I read about Jesus’ prayer life?**

The four gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, record Jesus’ life of prayer and what Jesus taught about prayer. The following passages will get you started. Read and discuss them with your children.

- Luke 11:1 Jesus prays.
- Luke 11:1-4 Jesus teaches the Our Father.
- Luke 11:5-13 Jesus tells the parable of the late night, persistent friend.
- Luke 18:1-8 Jesus tells the parable of the widow and the judge.
- Luke 18:9-14 Jesus tells the parable of the Pharisee and the humble tax collector.
- Luke 22:39-46 Jesus prays and seeks the Father’s will even at the coming of His death.
- Luke 23:46 Jesus’ last words are a prayer of trust in God.

You can also read the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* section on prayer. (CCC 2598-2616)

# Praying the Novena to the Holy Spirit with your Child

A novena is nine consecutive days of prayer. The *Novena to the Holy Spirit* is the oldest of all novenas since it was first made at the direction of Our Lord Himself, when He sent His apostles back to Jerusalem to await the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. In other words, the Twelve Apostles spent nine days praying to prepare for receiving the power of the Holy Spirit. You can do the same thing to prepare with your child for their Confirmation. You might also have their sponsor join in.

Each day of the *Novena to the Holy Spirit* begins with the prayers for the day, after which are recited the "Our Father", "Hail Mary" and "Glory Be". The prayer concludes with "The Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit" and "The Act of Consecration" (on page 22).

## **FIRST DAY - The Holy Spirit**

Only one thing is important: eternal salvation. Only one thing, therefore, is to be feared: sin. Sin is the result of ignorance, weakness, and indifference. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of light, of strength, and of love. With His sevenfold gift He enlightens the mind, strengthens the will, and inflames the heart with love of God. To ensure our salvation we ought to invoke the Divine Spirit daily, for "The Spirit helps our infirmity. We know not what we should pray for as we ought. But the Spirit Himself asks for us."

**Prayer:** Almighty and eternal God, Who has allowed us to be regenerated by water and the Holy Spirit, and has given us forgiveness of all sins, grant to send forth from heaven upon us your sevenfold gift, the gifts of Wisdom and Understanding, the gifts of Counsel and Fortitude, the gifts of Knowledge and Piety, and fill us with the gift of Holy Fear. Amen.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be, Act of Consecration, Prayer for the Seven Gifts)

## **SECOND DAY - The Gift of Wisdom**

Embodying all the other gifts, as charity embraces all the other virtues, Wisdom is the most perfect of the gifts. Of Wisdom it is written "all good things came to me with her, and innumerable riches through her hands." It is the gift of Wisdom that strengthens our faith, fortifies hope, perfects charity, and promotes the practice of virtue in the highest degree. Wisdom enlightens the mind to discern and relish things divine, in the appreciation of which earthly joys lose their savor, while the Cross of Christ yields a divine sweetness according to the words of the Savior: "Take up your cross and follow me, for my yoke is sweet and my burden light".

**Prayer:** Come, O Spirit of Wisdom, and reveal to my soul the mysteries of heavenly things, their exceeding greatness, power and beauty. Teach me to love them above and beyond all the passing joys and satisfactions of earth. Help me to attain them and possess them for ever. Amen.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be, Act of Consecration, Prayer for the Seven Gifts)

### **THIRD DAY - The Gift of Understanding**

Understanding, as a gift of the Holy Spirit, helps us to grasp the meaning of the truths of our holy religion. By faith we know them, but by Understanding we learn to appreciate and relish them. It enables us to penetrate the inner meaning of revealed truths and through them to be quickened to newness of life. Our faith ceases to be sterile and inactive, but inspires a mode of life that bears eloquent testimony to the faith that is in us; we begin to "walk worthy of God in all things pleasing, and increasing in the knowledge of God."

**Prayer:** Come, O Spirit of Understanding, and enlighten our minds, that we may know and believe all the mysteries of salvation; and may merit at last to see the eternal light in Your Light; and in the light of glory to have a clear vision of You, Holy Spirit and the Father and the Son. Amen.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be, Act of Consecration, Prayer for the Seven Gifts)

### **FOURTH DAY - The Gift of Counsel**

The gift of Counsel endows the soul with supernatural prudence, enabling it to judge promptly and rightly what must be done, especially in difficult circumstances. Counsel applies the principles furnished by Knowledge and Understanding to the innumerable concrete cases that confront us in the course of our daily duty as parents, teachers, public servants, and Christian citizens. Counsel is supernatural common sense, a priceless treasure in the quest of salvation. "Above all these things, pray to the Most High, that He may direct Your way in truth."

**Prayer:** Come, O Spirit of Counsel, help and guide me in all my ways, that I may always do Your holy will. Incline my heart to that which is good; turn it away from all that is evil, and direct me by the straight path of Your commandments to that goal of eternal life for which I long. Amen.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be, Act of Consecration, Prayer for the Seven Gifts)

### **FIFTH DAY - The Gift Of Fortitude**

By the gift of Fortitude the soul is strengthened against natural fear, and supported to the end in the performance of duty. Fortitude imparts to the will an impulse and energy which move it to undertake without hesitancy the most arduous tasks, to face dangers, to trample under foot human respect, and to endure without complaint the slow martyrdom of even lifelong tribulation. "He that shall persevere unto the end, he shall be saved."

**Prayer:** Come, O Blessed Spirit of Fortitude, uphold my soul in time of trouble and adversity, sustain my efforts after holiness, strengthen my weakness, give me courage against all the assaults of my enemies, that I may never be overcome and separated from You, my God and greatest Good. Amen.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be, Act of Consecration, Prayer for the Seven Gifts)

### **SIXTH DAY - The Gift of Knowledge**

The gift of Knowledge enables the soul to evaluate created things at their true worth: in their relation to God. Knowledge unmask the pretense of creatures, reveals their emptiness, and points out their only true purpose as instruments in the service of God. It shows us the loving care of God even in adversity, and directs us to glorify Him in every circumstance of life. Guided by its light, we put first things first, and prize the friendship of God beyond all else. "Knowledge is a fountain of life to him that possesses it."

**Prayer:** Come, O Blessed Spirit of Knowledge, and grant that I may perceive the will of the Father; show me the nothingness of earthly things, that I may realize their vanity and use them only for Your glory and my own salvation, looking ever beyond them to You, and Your eternal rewards. Amen.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be, Act of Consecration, Prayer for the Seven Gifts)

### **SEVENTH DAY - The Gift of Piety**

The gift of Piety begets in our hearts a filial affection for God as our most loving Father. It inspires us to love and respect for His sake persons and things consecrated to Him, as well as those who are vested with His authority, His Blessed Mother and the Saints, the Church and its visible Head, our parents and superiors, our country and its rulers. He who is filled with the gift of Piety finds the practice of his religion, not a burdensome duty, but a delightful service. Where there is love, there is no labor.

**Prayer:** Come, O Blessed Spirit of Piety, possess my heart. Enkindle therein such a love for God that I may find satisfaction only in His service, and for His sake lovingly submit to all legitimate authority. Amen.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be, Act of Consecration, Prayer for the Seven Gifts)

### **EIGHTH DAY - The Gift of Fear**

The gift of Fear fills us with a sovereign respect for God, and makes us dread nothing so much as to offend Him by sin. It is a fear that arises, not from the thought of hell, but from sentiments of reverence and filial submission to our heavenly Father. It is fear that is the beginning of wisdom, detaching us from worldly pleasures that could in any way separate us from God. "They that fear the Lord will prepare their hearts, and in His sight will sanctify their souls."

**Prayer:** Come, O blessed Spirit of Holy Fear, penetrate my inmost heart that I may set you, my Lord and God, before my face forever. Help me to shun all things that can offend You, and make me worthy to appear before the pure eyes of Your Divine Majesty in heaven, where You live and reign in the unity of the ever Blessed Trinity, God world without end. Amen.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be, Act of Consecration, Prayer for the Seven Gifts)

## **NINTH DAY - The Fruits of the Holy Spirit**

The gifts of the Holy Spirit perfect the supernatural virtues by enabling us to practice them with greater docility to divine inspiration. As we grow in the knowledge and love of God under the direction of the Holy Spirit, our service becomes more sincere and generous, the practice of virtue more perfect. Such acts of virtue leave the heart filled with joy and consolation and are known as Fruits of the Holy Spirit. These Fruits in turn render the practice of virtue more attractive and become a powerful incentive for still greater efforts in the service of God.

**Prayer:** Come, O Divine Spirit, fill my heart with Your heavenly fruits, Your charity, joy, peace, patience, benignity, goodness, faith, mildness, and temperance, that I may never weary in the service of God, but by continued faithful submission to Your inspiration may merit to be united eternally with You in the love of the Father and the Son. Amen.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be, Act of Consecration, Prayer for the Seven Gifts)

### **Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit**

*(recite daily during the nine days of the Novena)*

O Lord Jesus Christ Who, before ascending into heaven did promise to send the Holy Spirit to finish Your work in the souls of Your disciples and witnesses, please grant the same Holy Spirit to me that He may perfect in my soul, the work of Your grace and Your love. Grant me the gift of Wisdom that I may know as God knows, striving to have the mind and heart of Jesus Christ, desiring the gifts that are for eternal life and despising those things that will lead me away; the gift of Understanding to enlighten my mind with the light of your divine truth; the gift of Knowledge that I may know You, know myself and know the value of all creation in light of their relationship with God so to grow in perfect holiness as the saints; the gift of Counsel that I may always know the right decisions to make in my life, to choose the good and to avoid evil, ever choosing the surest way of pleasing God and gaining heaven; the gift of Fortitude that I may bear my cross with You and that I may overcome with courage all the obstacles that prevent me from being a faithful disciple and constant witness; the gift of Piety that will heal my heart and open my heart tenderly towards God and others, so that service of You is sweet, and the gift of Fear that I may be filled with a loving reverence towards God and may dread in any way to displease You. Mark me, dear Lord with the sign of Your true disciples and animate me in all things with Your Spirit. Amen.

### **Act of Consecration to the Holy Spirit**

*(recite daily during the nine days of the Novena)*

On my knees before the great multitude of heavenly witnesses, I offer myself, soul and body to You, Holy Spirit. I adore the brightness of Your purity, the unerring keenness of Your justice, and the might of Your love. You are the Strength and Light of my soul. In you I live and move and have my being. I desire never to grieve You by unfaithfulness and I pray with all my heart to be kept from the smallest sin against You. Mercifully guard my every thought, word, deed and hope. Grant that I may always watch for Your light, listen to Your voice, and follow Your gracious inspirations. I cling to You and give myself to You and ask You, by Your compassion to watch for Your light, listen to Your voice, and follow Your gracious inspirations. I cling to You and give myself to You and ask You, by Your compassion to watch over me in my weakness. Holding the pierced Feet of Jesus, looking at His Five Wounds, trusting in His Precious Blood, adoring His Side and stricken Heart, I implore You, Adorable Spirit, Helper of my infirmity, to keep me in Your grace that I may never sin against You. Give me grace O Holy Spirit, Spirit of the Father and the Son to say to You always and everywhere, "Speak Lord for Your servant is listening." Amen.

# Helping Your Child Choose a Confirmation Sponsor

**DIRECTIONS:** Parents lead a discussion with your child to talk about whom to pick for a sponsor. It is important to choose a good sponsor to help your child follow Jesus Christ as best as they can. Parishes may have a form to fill out in order to have the sponsor approved.

## **Do I really need a sponsor?**

Yes. Everyone needs help living the Christian life. Sponsors, along with parents, have the duty of helping you to follow Jesus Christ. Because it is good for you, the church makes it a requirement for Confirmation.

## **Who can be a sponsor?**

They must be willing and able to help you live your life as a Christian. Who is your godparent from Baptism? If your godparent is doing a good job following Jesus, it is recommended that you have him or her be your Confirmation sponsor to continue in the role they began at your Baptism. If you had two godparents, you can even ask them both and have two sponsors (only one is required).

Specifically, the church requires that sponsors:

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

From this list, you can see that sometimes a best friend or favorite relative is not the right choice for being a sponsor. Not everyone can be a sponsor. Be sure to ask your parish priest if the person you choose would be a good sponsor.

## **How do I ask someone to be my sponsor?**

Just ask. Let them know why you are asking them. If they say, "Yes", then put them in contact with your parish priest, so he can talk to them and make sure they meet all the requirements. Your parish might schedule some sponsor sessions that they will need to attend or have other paperwork to fill out.

Once your sponsor has been approved, invite them to be involved with your preparation. Go to Mass together; invite them to class, pray with and for one another, attend the retreat together, talk about what saint you will choose for your Confirmation name, etc.

For more information see the *Rite of Christian Initiation*, Introduction, 5-6; *Code of Canon Law*, 872-874, 892-893; *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1311; and the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, Introduction, 10.2.

# Reviewing the Baptismal Promises with your Child

DIRECTIONS: Assist your child in understanding the meaning of a promise and how to keep a promise. Then discuss each of the baptismal promises that they will renew at Confirmation (the words are given below). Help them to understand that at their Baptism you said “I do” for them; on the day of the Confirmation they will be saying “I do” for themselves.

Being able to renew one’s baptismal promises is one of the requirements for being able to receive Confirmation. As explained on page 12, during the celebration of the sacrament of Confirmation, the bishop asks the child to make these promises. Even after we are confirmed, we renew these promises.

These are the same words which are used for the Rite of Confirmation. Similar words are used during Mass at various times of the year, such as on Easter Sunday.

## Renewal of Baptismal Promises

1. Do you renounce Satan, and all his works and empty promises? ***I do.***
2. Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth? ***I do.***
3. Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried rose again from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Father? ***I do.***
4. Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who today through the sacrament of Confirmation is given to you in a special way just as he was given to the Apostles on the day of Pentecost? ***I do.***
5. Do you believe in the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting? ***I do.***

## Conclusion

This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church.  
We are proud to profess it in Christ Jesus our Lord. ***Amen.***

# Reviewing the Gifts of the Holy Spirit with your Child

**DIRECTIONS:** Parents lead a discussion with your child to talk about the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Think of examples that show what this looks like in your life when you use each gift.

We first receive the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit in Baptism. These gifts are strengthened in Confirmation. (cf. Is 11:1-3; CCC 1831). The gifts of the Holy Spirit help us to live as children of God and disciples of Jesus. The gifts complete and perfect the virtues.

Imagine an artist. An artist cannot paint without tools like brushes, a canvas, paints, etc., so too a Christian cannot live as a Christian without the gifts of the Holy Spirit. But owning the tools is still not enough for an artist to be an artist. An artist needs to practice and figure out how to use the tools, so also a Christian cannot be a Christian unless they practice and figure out how to use the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

The gifts of the Holy Spirit take practice to see; they are not as easily seen as an artist's tools. Fortunately, the Holy Spirit is with us always as our interior teacher and guide. We can always ask the Holy Spirit for help. Learning the meaning of each of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is the start for understanding how to use them in our daily life as a Christian.

**Wisdom** - first and greatest gift; wisdom is having the ways and thoughts of God, the mind and heart of Jesus Christ; helps us to know as God knows; helps us to love the things of God; helps us to act the way God would wish. Wisdom is the ability to see how all things work together in God's plan of salvation.

**Understanding** - gift which gives us insight into the truths of faith. Understanding deepens our knowledge of God and the meaning of His teachings and life; a sort of divine intuition.

**Counsel (Right Judgment)** - gift that helps us to know the right decisions to make in our life, to see and choose correctly what will help most to follow God; helps us to seek advice and follow direction from godly people. Counsel is the gift that points out to us the path God wants us to follow and the dangers to avoid in order to reach heaven; sometimes called "Right Judgment"

**Fortitude (Courage)** - gift that gives us the strength to live our faith, to live as Jesus calls us to live, to obey the commandments; gives us the courage to love God in the face of all obstacles, even death, and gives us a willingness to suffer for the sake of the Kingdom of God; sometimes called "Courage"

**Knowledge** - gift which helps us know God, know ourselves and know the value of all created things as God intended.

**Piety (Reverence)** - gift of having devotion to God; gift that heals our hearts and helps us to open them tenderly towards God and others; helps us to love and worship God; helps us to pray and gives us a deep respect for God, for all of His people and for all of His creation; sometimes called "Reverence".

**Fear of the Lord (Wonder and Awe)** - gift that helps us recognize the majesty of God (how great He is) and how much we need Him; gives us the desire to avoid anything that would separate us from His love; helps us to pray to God and never lose trust in Him; sometimes called "wonder and awe".

# Reviewing the Fruits of the Holy Spirit with your Child

DIRECTIONS: Parents lead a discussion with your child to talk about the fruits of the Holy Spirit. Think of examples that show what this looks like in your child's life when they use each gift.

If you see apples on a tree, what kind of tree is it? What if you see oranges on a tree? Similarly, the fruits of the Holy Spirit show the work of the Holy Spirit. If you are often mean, angry, greedy, unhappy, and impatient, etc., you need to change so that the Holy Spirit can produce fruits in you.

The fruits of the Holy Spirit give us a slice of heaven right now on earth. This taste of heaven is given to the individual and everyone that the individual encounters either directly or indirectly. In other words, people who do not know Jesus can come to know Him by meeting someone who is living like Him (as His witness and disciple).

There are twelve fruits of the Holy Spirit (cf. Gal. 5:22-23, CCC 1832). Learning the meaning of each of these will help you see if these fruits are in your life. You can pray that the Holy Spirit would help you have more of these fruits.

**charity (love)** - loving God above all things and loving all other people. Charity is the sign that you love God as your good Father and others as Jesus loves you. Your love is so great that you show selfless service to others by your prayers, words and actions.

A time when I showed charity: \_\_\_\_\_

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**joy** - interior, unshakeable happiness. Joy is deep and constant gladness in the Lord that cannot be destroyed by other people or things. It comes from a good relationship with God and others, a relationship of genuine love.

A time when I showed joy: \_\_\_\_\_

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**peace** - not only the absence of fighting and violence, but also an internal presence resulting from a friendship with God and His Family, the Church. Peace comes from knowing that everything will be OK because God is with us. A disciple faithful to God's will is calm, not anxious or upset.

A time when I showed peace: \_\_\_\_\_

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**patience** - seeing things and waiting in God's time. Patience is love that is willing to endure life's sufferings. It means not giving up when it is hard to act like Jesus. We trust that God is in control and wait for Him.

A time when I showed patience: \_\_\_\_\_

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**kindness** acting as God acts towards others, forgiving others even when they hurt us. Kindness is showing we care and doing good to others. It is showing Jesus' love to all.

A time when I showed kindness: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**goodness** - all the qualities and virtues which make us what God wants us to be. Goodness is a sign that we love all people without exception and do good to them. Goodness comes from God's great love.

A time when I showed goodness: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**generosity** - willingness to give all that we have received to God and others. Generosity is giving and sharing without asking or wanting something in return. It finds ways to make others happy.

A time when I showed generosity: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**gentleness** - acting towards others with the recognition that you cannot make them follow Jesus, they need to decide for themselves. Gentleness is really strength softened by love so we can be gentle and kind. A gentle person has the power to forgive instead of getting angry.

A time when I showed gentleness: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**faithfulness** - following Jesus in every way. You are faithful when you show loyalty to God, trusting and obeying Him. Faithful people are dependable; they keep their promises.

A time when I showed faithfulness: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**modesty** - dress or conduct that respects others. Modesty is moderation in all our actions, especially how we dress, talk and behave with others. Modesty is a sign that we give credit to God for our talents and successes.

A time when I showed modesty: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**self-control** - temperance, knowing when enough is enough, right control over ones' desire. Self-control means controlling our thoughts, words and actions. We control our emotions and desires instead of letting them control us. We decide to be good.

A time when I showed self-control: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**chastity** - purity in thought, word, and act. Chastity helps us to be pure in mind, heart and body. It helps us respect ourselves and others.

A time when I showed chastity: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Helping your Child Choose a Confirmation Name

During Confirmation the bishop says your child's name, "*(name), be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.*" (RC # 27) This name is **either** your child's formal baptismal name **or** the name of a person who has officially been declared a saint, blessed, or venerable or who is one of the faithful from the Bible. As parents, you will need to assist your child in choosing a Confirmation name. When chosen, the saint becomes your child's special patron and can be called upon in prayer to intercede for them. This is called their patron saint.

## How do I help my child choose a Confirmation name?

### 1. Start with the baptismal name.

Are there saints with the same name as your child? Research their life-stories. If you intentionally named your child after a saint, tell them why you chose that name. What do they have in common with their name-sake?

### 2. Patron saints.

Help your child to understand that they are not simply choosing a name they like, but they are asking a saint to be their close friend for the rest of their lives. We call these saint friends "patrons." Patrons help us live as Christians both through their praying for us (intercession) and their good example (witness). (CCC 2156, 956)

### 2. Research the saints.

Take time to read the lives of the saints and find something in common or inspiring about them. There are many different books on saints. The internet also has many different websites on the saints. One place to start is <http://saints.sqpn.com/>. This site provides a list by topic and by name. Another site is <http://www.catholic.org/saints/>.

You might start your reading with a saint that has similar interests to your child (music, sports, etc). Sometimes, patrons are chosen because of the day their feast day falls on, e.g. if your child's birthday is on August 4, they might choose St. John Vianney. Sometimes, patrons might be chosen because of family ties, e.g. the child's grandpa's name is Mark, so the child chooses St. Mark. Ultimately, the patron chosen should be someone that your child wants to imitate in their love for Christ and others.

### 3. Choose a saint.

After researching, pick a saint. Let the parish know the saint you have chosen by completing the "Confirmation Name Report Form".

### 4. Ask the saint for their prayers.

The child should ask the saint to be their friend (patron) and to help them be holy. As parents, you might encourage them to write a letter to their saint. Teach your child to ask for the saint's intercession. Consider getting them a picture, holy card, book or statue of the saint. Celebrate the feast day of the saint in a special way.

**5. Practice telling the saint's story.** Your child will be asked why they chose the particular patron. They should be able to explain who the saint is, how they were a faithful disciple and witness of Jesus Christ, and what they hope to imitate in their own lives as a disciple and witness.

# Confirmation Name Report Form

DIRECTIONS: After finding a saint that inspires your faith, complete the form below and give it to your catechist (your religion teacher). Your parents should help you.

PARENTS, PLEASE PRINT

Candidate's First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate's Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate's Confirmation Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

What saint have you asked to be your friend? \_\_\_\_\_

What are they the patron saint of? \_\_\_\_\_

Where was the saint born? \_\_\_\_\_

How old was the saint when they died? \_\_\_\_\_

How many brothers and sisters did the saint have? \_\_\_\_\_

When is their feast day? \_\_\_\_\_

Why did you choose this saint to be your friend? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name two ways that the saint was a disciple and witness of Jesus Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Why do we need friends in heaven? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Sacrament of Confirmation Discussion Questions

DIRECTION: Parents lead a discussion with their child to talk about the sacrament of Confirmation.

**1. What is the sacrament of the Confirmation?**

It is special outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon me so I can become a more faithful disciple and a stronger witness of Jesus. With Confirmation I am more fully prepared to receive the Eucharist (Jesus' Body and Blood).

**2. When did the Holy Spirit first come to dwell within you?**

The Holy Spirit first comes to dwell within me at Baptism. In Confirmation, I receive the fullness and strength of the Holy Spirit.

**3. Do you see the Holy Spirit in Confirmation?**

No. I will see the bishop anoint my forehead with the Sacred Chrism oil and lay his hands upon my head. I will hear the bishop say, "Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit."

**4. Why does the Sacred Chrism oil smell?**

The Sacred Chrism oil smells because it has balsam perfume in it. It is a sign that my whole life — every thought, word, deed and hope — will spread the fragrance of Christ. "For we are the aroma of Christ for God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing." 2 Cor 2:15

**Prayer of Cardinal Newman**

*Dear Jesus, help me to spread Your fragrance everywhere I go. Flood my soul with Your Spirit and Life. Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly that my life may only be a radiance of Yours. Shine through me and be so in me that every soul I come in contact with may feel Your presence in my soul. Let them look up and see no longer me but only Jesus! Stay with me and then I shall begin to shine as You shine, so to shine as to be a light to others. The light, O Jesus, will be all from You; none of it will be mine. It will be You, shining on others through me. Let me thus praise You in the way which You love best, by shining on those around me. Let me preach You without preaching, not by my words but by my example, by the catching force, the sympathetic influence of what I do, the evident fullness of the love my heart bears for You. Amen.*

**5. What does it mean to be "sealed with the Holy Spirit?"**

A seal is like an invisible label or mark. I cannot see the seal with my eyes, but the seal is there. The seal of the Holy Spirit sets me apart as belonging totally to Jesus Christ and His Family, the Church.

**6. What sacraments did you receive before receiving Confirmation?**

Baptism and Reconciliation.

**7. What happened when you were Baptized?**

Original Sin and all my sins and their punishments were washed away. Then, the Holy Spirit came to live inside me. I became a member of God's family, a son or daughter of God the Father. Baptism left an indelible (permanent) mark on my soul.

**8. What is an indelible mark?**

An indelible mark can never, ever be removed. It is a permanent spiritual mark.

**9. What happens in the sacrament of Reconciliation?**

Reconciliation is the way Jesus has given to me to start over. In Reconciliation my sins are forgiven. A good confession is the sure way to be in the state of grace before receiving Confirmation.

**10. What happens when you receive Confirmation?**

I am more firmly united with Jesus and His Family the Church as a Child of God. I receive the power of the Holy Spirit. I am given the strength I need to live as a disciple and witness of Jesus Christ. Confirmation leaves an indelible mark on my soul, just like Baptism.

**11. Why does the Holy Spirit strengthen you in Confirmation?**

The Holy Spirit strengthens me in Confirmation so I can be Jesus' disciple and witness in everything I say and do. Not only with my family and at church, but also with my friends, classmates, teachers and with people I don't even know. Through Confirmation, I will have the strength to be like Jesus even when it is difficult.

**12. What does it mean to be more fully united with Jesus and His Family, the Church?**

To unite means to be joined together, like a family. When I am united with Jesus and His Family, the Church, I am more closely connected to Him and His Family.

**13. What is the Church?**

The Church is the family of God.

**14. Who belongs to the Church, the Family of God?**

The family of God includes the saints in heaven, the souls in purgatory and the faithful on earth.

**15. What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus?**

A disciple of Jesus is someone who is committed to always seeking to know Jesus better and better. Some of the ways a disciple seeks to know Jesus better is through praying each day, receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist often, reading the Bible, studying, asking questions and going out of the way to be kind to others (acts of charity).

**16. What does it mean to be a witness of Jesus?**

A witness of Jesus is someone who tries to be just like Jesus. A witness asks themselves "what would Jesus do?" A witness is someone who thinks, judges, acts and hopes like Jesus in their own lives.

**17. What must I do to receive Confirmation?**

- Be in the state of grace. Have no serious sin on my soul (go to Reconciliation beforehand).
- Open my heart to Jesus, to receive God the Father's grace and love.
- Renew my baptismal promises.
- Receive the strength and gifts of the Holy Spirit when the bishop anoints my head with Chrism oil.
- Pray for help to use the gifts of the Holy Spirit each day to be a good son or daughter of God.

**18. How many times can I be confirmed?**

Only once, like Baptism. Both last forever.

**19. When did the Holy Spirit come upon Jesus?**

The Holy Spirit came upon Jesus immediately after He was baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River. The Holy Spirit came upon Jesus in the form of a dove and then a voice from heaven proclaimed, "This is my beloved Son." (The full story is in Matthew 3:13-17.)

**20. What did Jesus do after the Holy Spirit came upon Him?**

After the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus, He went into the desert to be alone with God. In the desert, Jesus fasted and prayed for forty days. He was getting ready for the job God sent Him to do. In the desert, the devil came to tempt Jesus to reject or turn away from God. Jesus resisted the devil and the devil left. Then angels came to help Him. Next Jesus came out of the desert to proclaim the Good News about the Kingdom of God and did miracles to prove He was God's Son (see Matthew 4:1-11).

**21. When were Peter and the other apostles filled with the Holy Spirit?**

At Pentecost, ten days after Jesus has ascended to the Father (see Acts of the Apostles, chapter 2).

**22. What happened to the apostles after they were filled with the power of the Holy Spirit?**

First, the apostles were no longer afraid to talk about Jesus to other people, so that others could listen and decide to follow Jesus. Second, the apostles baptized and confirmed all those who believed their preaching so they could follow Jesus. (The full story is in Acts 2)

**23. Who did Jesus give the power to do Confirmation?**

The Twelve Apostles and their successors, the bishops. Sometimes, the bishop might also have priests help him. He gives them his permission. Priests also have the power to confirm when all three Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist) are celebrated at the Easter Vigil.

**24. How do bishops get this power from Jesus today?**

Through the sacrament of Holy Orders when they are ordained a bishop.

**25. Be able to discuss your Confirmation name. Here are some possible questions.**

What saint have you asked to be your friend?

What are they the patron saint of?

When is their feast day?

Where was the saint born?

How old was the saint when they died?

How many brothers and sisters did the saint have?

How old was the saint when they died?

Why did you choose this saint to be your friend?

Name two ways that the saint was a disciple and witness of Jesus Christ?

Why do we need friends in heaven?

# The Sacraments of Initiation and the Sacrament of Confirmation in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* is a great gift to help us gain a deeper knowledge of the teachings of the Faith. The following sections can give you a greater understanding of the Sacraments of Initiation and the Sacrament of Confirmation.

## **The Sacraments of Initiation** **Paragraph Numbers**

The Sacraments of Christian Initiation ..... 1210-1212

## **The Sacrament of Confirmation** **Paragraph Numbers**

The Sacrament of Confirmation ..... 1285

I. Confirmation in the Economy of Salvation ..... 1286-1289

    Two traditions: East and West..... 1290-1292

II. The Signs and the Rite of Confirmation ..... 1293-1296

    The Celebration of Confirmation ..... 1297-1301

III. The Effects of Confirmation ..... 1302-1305

IV. Who Can Receive This Sacrament ..... 1306-1311

V. The Minister of Confirmation ..... 1312-1314

In Brief (summary) ..... 1315-1321

