



Ignite the F.I.R.E.



Families Involved in Religious Education

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SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

This weekend we celebrated the Rite with Bishop LeVoir confirming 22 students from St. Eloi and St. Edward's. This moves into what was discussed in the past newsletter regarding Baptism. Here is information pulled from a website www.thoughtco.com.

Confirmation is regarded as the perfection of baptism, because, as the introduction to the Rite of Confirmation states:

by the sacrament of Confirmation, [the baptized] are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed.

The essential element is the anointing of the confirmand with chrism. The anointing is accompanied by the words "Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit". This seal is a consecration, representing the safeguarding by the Holy Spirit of the graces conferred on the Christian at baptism.

The sacrament of confirmation confers special graces of the Holy Spirit upon the person being confirmed, just as such graces were granted to the Apostles on Pentecost. Like baptism, therefore, it can be performed only once, and confirmation increases and deepens all of the graces granted at baptism.

The catechism of the Catholic Church lists five effects of confirmation:

1. It roots us more deeply in the divine filiation [as children of God] which makes us cry, "Abba! Father!"
2. It unites us more firmly to Christ.
3. It increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us.
4. It renders our bond with the church more perfect.
5. It gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the cross.

"Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire!" ~ St. Catherine of Siena

