

Confirmation -- The Second Sacrament



Confirmation is the completion of baptismal grace, with the special outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon us that we may come to fullness with Christ. The word "Christian" means "Anointed" and comes from that of Christ himself, whom God "anointed with the Holy Spirit".

In the Sacrament of Confirmation, the baptized person is "sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit" and is strengthened for service to the Body of Christ.

Anointing with oil during the rite of Confirmation is a sign of consecration and invitation--or 'opening'--for the Holy Spirit to 'come in' and 'indwell' within us. By this anointing, the confirmand receives the "mark", the seal of the Holy Spirit.

1303 From this fact, Confirmation brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace:
--it roots us more deeply in the divine filiation, which makes us cry, "Abba! Father!" 117

--it unites us more firmly to Christ;

--it increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us;

--it renders our bond with the Church more perfect; 118

--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;11

"Recall then that you have received the spiritual seal, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence, the spirit of holy fear in God's presence. Guard what you have received. God the Father has marked you with his sign; Christ the Lord has confirmed you and has placed his pledge, the Spirit, in your hearts."120

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church

http://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc_css/archive/catechism/p2s2cla2.htm

First Communion

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