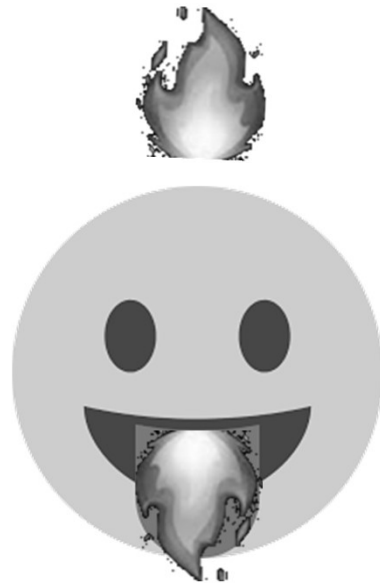


Confirmation



Catechetical Checklist

- ✓ Confirmation **is a sacrament**, not a “useless ceremony” or catechesis.
- ✓ Confirmation confers a **character** (= you’re **forever changed**).
- ✓ Confirmation deepens your baptismal grace.
- ✓ The ordinary minister of confirmation is the **bishop**, who lays hands and anoints with chrism.

Now for the real fun...

(1)

Pentecost



(2)

Binding



(3)

Gifts



Confirmation = Presence of Pentecost

Acts of the Apostles 2

¹ When the time for **Pentecost** was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. ² And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving **wind**, and it filled the entire house in which they were. ³ Then there appeared to them **tongues as of fire**, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. ⁴ And they were all **filled with the holy Spirit** and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.

...

¹² They were all astounded and bewildered, and said to one another, "What does this mean?"

¹³ But others said, scoffing, "They have had too much new wine."

→ **Empowerment for public witness**

→ **Universal scope of the mission**

Confirmation = Presence of Pentecost

John 20

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

²¹ [Jesus] said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²² And when he had said this, **he breathed on [into] them** and said to them, **“Receive the holy Spirit.”** ²³ Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.”

Genesis 2

⁴ This is the story of the heavens and the earth at their creation. When the LORD God made the earth and the heavens— ⁵ there was no field shrub on earth and no grass of the field had sprouted, for the LORD God had sent no rain upon the earth and there was no man to till the ground, ⁶ but a stream was welling up out of the earth and watering all the surface of the ground— ⁷ then the **LORD God** formed the man out of the dust of the ground and **blew into his nostrils the breath of life**, and the man became a living being.

→ Spirit making us a new creation = new Adam

Confirmation = Presence of Pentecost

Our bishop, Cardinal Cupich,
breathes into the sacred chrism...
...through his face shield.

#ChrismMass2020



Confirmation = Binding to the Church

Acts 8

¹⁴ Now when the **apostles** in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they **sent** them Peter and John, ¹⁵ who went down and prayed for them, that they might **receive the holy Spirit**, ¹⁶ for it had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ¹⁷ Then they **laid hands** on them and they received the holy Spirit.

¹⁸ When Simon saw that **the Spirit was conferred by the laying on of the apostles' hands**, he offered them money ¹⁹ and said, "Give me this power too, so that anyone upon whom I lay my hands may receive the holy Spirit." ²⁰ But Peter said to him, "May your money perish with you, because you thought that you could buy the gift of God with money.

Acts 19

¹ While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul traveled through the interior of the country and came [down] to Ephesus where he found some disciples. ² He said to them, "**Did you receive the holy Spirit** when you became believers?" They answered him, "**We have never even heard that there is a holy Spirit.**" ³ He said, "How were you baptized?" They replied, "With the baptism of John." ⁴ Paul then said, "John baptized with a baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." ⁵ When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶ **And when Paul laid [his] hands on them, the holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.** ⁷ Altogether there were about twelve men.

Confirmation: Binding to the Church...but *when*?

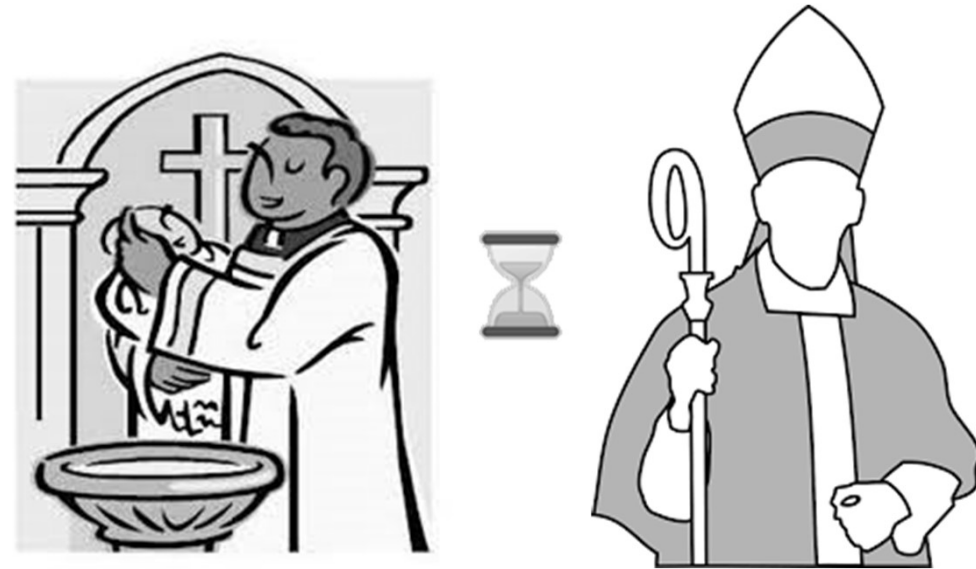
In the early church

Baptism and confirmation celebrated as one rite:
priest baptizes, bishop anoints/lays hands



By the 11th century

Confirmation celebrated after baptism:
Priest baptizes, bishop confirms at a later date



Confirmation = Binding to the Church... with *spiritual gifts*

1 Cor 14

¹ Pursue love, but strive eagerly for the **spiritual gifts**, above all that you may prophesy. ² For one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to human beings but to God, for no one listens; he utters mysteries in spirit. ³ On the other hand, one who prophesies does speak to human beings, for their **building up, encouragement, and solace**. ⁴ Whoever speaks in a tongue builds himself up, but whoever prophesies **builds up the church**. ⁵ Now I should like all of you to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. One who prophesies is greater than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that **the church may be built up**. . .

²³ So if the whole church meets in one place and everyone speaks in tongues, and then uninstructed people or unbelievers should come in, will they not say that you are out of your minds? ²⁴ But if everyone is prophesying, and an **unbeliever or uninstructed** person should come in, he **will be convinced** by everyone and judged by everyone, ²⁵ and the secrets of his heart will be disclosed, and so **he will fall down and worship God**, declaring, "God is really in your midst."

... Everything should be done for **building up**.

(those *of the church* and *not yet of the church*)

Confirmation: increase of the Spirit's gifts

Isaiah 11

¹ But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse,
and from his roots a bud shall blossom.

² The **spirit of the LORD** shall rest upon him:

a spirit of **wisdom** and of **understanding**,

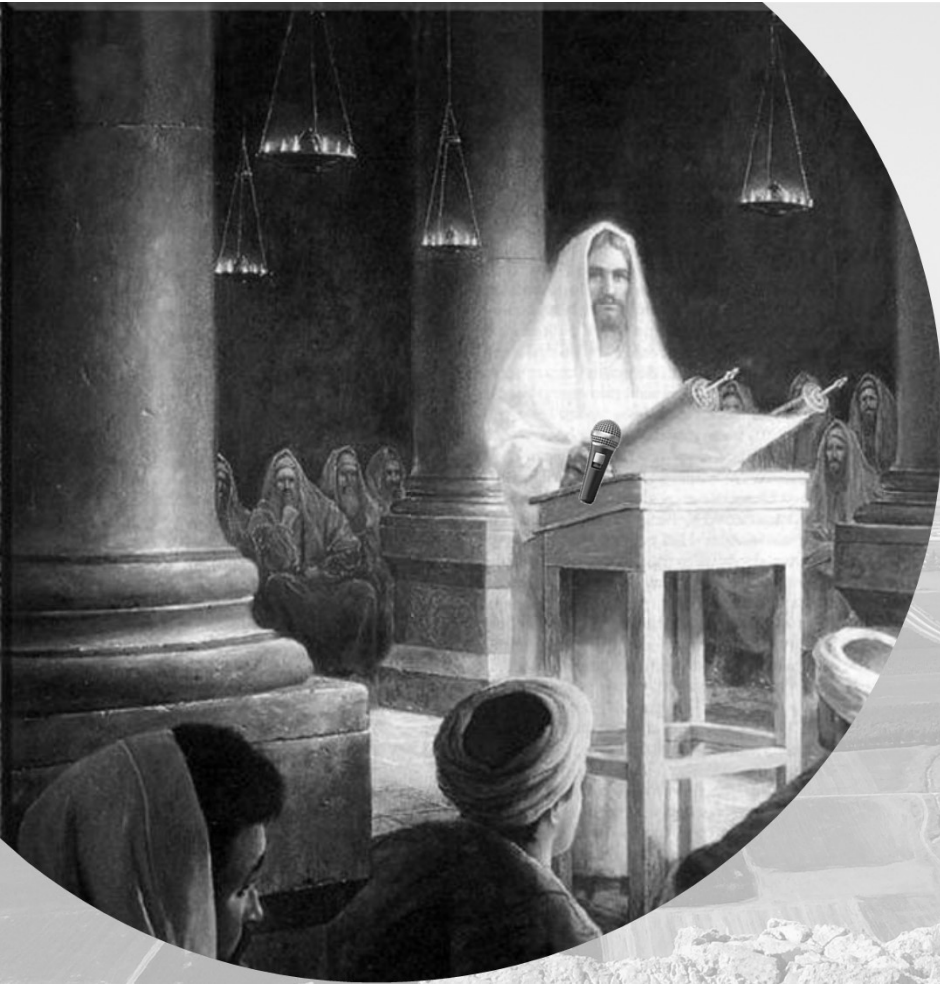
A spirit of **counsel** and of **strength**,

a spirit of **knowledge** and of **fear of the LORD [piety]**,

³ and his delight shall be the **fear of the LORD**.

1 Cor 12 = gifts for

⁴ There are different kinds of **spiritual gifts** but the same **Spirit**; ⁵ there are different forms of service but the same Lord; ⁶ there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. ⁷ To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is **given for some benefit**. ⁸ To one is given through the Spirit the expression of **wisdom**; to another the expression of **knowledge** according to the same Spirit; ⁹ to another **faith** by the same Spirit; to another gifts of **healing** by the one Spirit; ¹⁰ to another **mighty deeds**; to another **prophecy**; to another **discernment of spirits**; to another varieties of **tongues**; to another **interpretation** of tongues. ¹¹ But one and the same Spirit produces all of these, distributing them individually to each person as he wishes.



Confirmation: increase of the Spirit's gifts...*for evangelizing*

Luke 4

¹⁶ He came to Nazareth, where he had grown up, and went according to his custom into the synagogue on the sabbath day. He stood up to read ¹⁷ and was handed a scroll of the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written:

¹⁸ "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,
¹⁹ and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord."

²⁰ Rolling up the scroll, he handed it back to the attendant and sat down, and the eyes of all in the synagogue looked intently at him. ²¹ He said to them, "Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing."

But: REJECTION!



Confirmation: increase of the Spirit's gifts...*for martyrdom*

Luke 23

⁵² [Joseph of Arimathea] went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁵³ After he had taken the body down, he wrapped it in a linen cloth and laid him in a rock-hewn tomb in which no one had yet been buried. ⁵⁴ It was the day of preparation, and the sabbath was about to begin. ⁵⁵ The women who had come from Galilee with him followed behind, and when they had seen the tomb and the way in which his body was laid in it, ⁵⁶ they returned and **prepared spices and perfumed oils**. Then they rested on the sabbath according to the commandment.

(1)
Pentecost



(2)
Binding



(3)
Gifts



Aren't you glad you did this?

