

Chapter 16 – Confirmation: Consecrated for Mission

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.

In the Latin Church, it is customary to confirm candidates between the age of discretion and about sixteen years of age. The candidates should be in the state of grace, be well prepared by prayer and catechesis, and be committed to the responsibilities entailed by the Sacrament.

There is a connection between Baptism and Confirmation, and between Confirmation and Eucharist.

The person being confirmed is sealed with the Holy Spirit. This seal is called a character, marking the person forever as called to fulfill the Church's mission in all circumstances of life.

The Holy Spirit bestows seven gifts; their impact accompanies us in the various stages of our spiritual development:

Wisdom – enables us to see the world from God's viewpoint; saves us from the illusion that the spirit of the times is our only guide.

Knowledge – directs us to a thoughtful reflection of the mystery of God and the mysteries of the Catholic faith.

Understanding – stimulates us to work on knowing ourselves as part of our growth in knowing God.

Fortitude – prepares us to stand up for Christ and the Gospel when challenged.

Counsel – helps us sense the teaching that the Spirit gives us about our moral lives.

Piety – grants us respect for God, a gift we especially receive at liturgy and through devotions.

Wonder and Awe – infuses an awe before the majesty of God.

There are twelve fruits of the Spirit:

Love	Kindness	Faithfulness
Joy	Goodness	Modesty

Peace
Patience

Generosity
Gentleness

Self-Control
Chastity

Discussion:

- What are the consequences of the deeper identification with the mission of the Church that comes from Confirmation?
- What do the sacred oil and the laying on of hands symbolize?