

## CONFIRMATION STUDY GUIDE -- Questions a Bishop May Ask

1. **What special preparation should a candidate make to receive Confirmation?** In preparing to receive Confirmation, a candidate should
  - 1) pray and celebrate the sacraments
  - 2) live the Gospel
  - 3) be guided and supported by Catholic Christians
  - 4) study the faith.
2. **What are the requirements to be a sponsor at Confirmation?** To be a sponsor at Confirmation, a person must be
  - 1) a practicing Catholic;
  - 2) at least 16 years old;
  - 3) fully initiated by Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist;
  - 4) and, if married, in a valid marriage.
3. **What is the role of the sponsor?** The role of a sponsor is to help the candidate live his or her faith and be a good example of Catholic Christian life. The sponsor presents the candidate to the bishop for anointing.
4. **Who is a Christian?** A Christian is a follower of Jesus Christ.
5. **What are the sacraments?** Sacraments are outward signs of inward grace instituted by Christ. They are special encounters with Christ that help us grow in grace.'
6. **Why did Jesus give the Church the sacraments?** Jesus gave His Church the sacraments to continue His saving work and to build up the community of believers.
7. **What are the three Sacraments of Initiation?** The three Sacraments of Initiation are Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. We are born in Baptism, strengthened in Confirmation, and nourished by the Eucharist.
8. **When does the Holy Spirit first come to us?** The Spirit first comes to us at Baptism, when we receive sanctifying grace, or God's very life within us.
9. **When do we become Christians?** We become Christians at Baptism, when we begin a new life as children of God and members of the Church.
10. **What is the sacrament of Confirmation?** The sacrament of Confirmation is the sacrament of initiation that seals what happened at Baptism. Through it, the Spirit and his gifts are strengthened, and we are linked more closely to Christ and the Church.
11. **Why can Baptism and Confirmation be celebrated only once?** At Baptism and Confirmation you are marked with a permanent character or seal of the Lord.
12. **Who is the Holy Spirit?** The Holy Spirit is God, the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity. (The Spirit is the love between the Father and the Son.)
13. **How does the Holy Spirit help us?** The Spirit strengthens us and makes us holy. The Spirit enables us to love, spread, and defend our faith.

#### 14. **Name and define the gifts of the Holy Spirit.**

Gifts of the Holy Spirit are Wisdom, Understanding, Knowledge, Counsel, Piety, Fortitude, and Fear of the Lord.

- 1) Wisdom - The gift of wisdom enables you to see life from God's point of view. You recognize the real value of persons, events, and things.
- 2) Understanding - The gift of understanding, gives you insight into the truths of faith and being a follower of Jesus. It helps you to make right choices in your relationships with God and others.
- 3) Knowledge - The gift of knowledge helps you to know what God asks of you and how you should respond. You come to know God. You come to know who you are and the value of things through the experiences of your life
- 4) Counsel - The gift of counsel, or Right Judgment, helps you seek advice and to be open to the advice of others. Counsel also helps you give advice.
- 5) Piety - The gift of piety, or Reverence, helps you love and worship God. Piety leads to prayer and to a deep respect for God, for his people, and for all creation.
- 6) Fortitude - The gift of fortitude, or Courage enables you to stand up for your beliefs and to live as a follower of Christ. Fortitude helps you undertake challenging tasks in the service of God and be faithful to ordinary duties.
- 7) Fear of the Lord - The gift of Fear of the Lord, or Wonder and Awe, helps you recognize the greatness of God and your dependence on God. This gift helps you avoid anything that would separate you from God's incredible love for you.

#### 15. **What are the Fruits of the Holy Spirit?**

The Fruits of the Holy Spirit are love (charity), joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control and chastity.

#### 16. **Answer the following questions to describe the birth of the Church.** (Acts of the Apostles 2:1-13)

1. Why did Jesus promise to send the Holy Spirit? Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to help His followers and to make them holy.
2. When was this promise fulfilled? This promise was fulfilled on Pentecost.
3. Who received the Spirit? The Apostles and Mary received the Spirit.
4. Where were they when they received the Spirit? They were in an upper room in Jerusalem.
5. In what form did the Spirit come upon them? The Spirit came upon them as tongues of fire.

#### 17. **How does Confirmation help us?** Confirmation

1. Increases the life of the Spirit within us;
2. Strengthens us to profess, defend and spread the faith;
3. Empowers us to give witness to Jesus and to carry on His mission
4. Links us more closely with Christ and the Christian community.

#### 18. **What are the signs of Confirmation?** The signs of Confirmation are

1. Laying on of hands
2. Anointing on the forehead with oil (chrism) by the bishop
3. And the words, "Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit."

#### 19. **What is chrism and when is it consecrated?** Chrism is perfumed oil. It is usually consecrated at the Chrism Mass on Holy Thursday.

#### 20. **Where do the words "Be sealed" come from and what do they mean?** These words of anointing are based on the practice of stamping something for identification. In Confirmation, God marks us as His own.

#### 20. **Who is the ordinary minister of Confirmation?** The bishop, the successor of the Apostles, is the ordinary minister of Confirmation.

#### 21. **When does the laying on of hands occur in Confirmation?** This occurs when the bishop and all the ministers of the sacrament extend their hands over the group of candidates and invoke the Holy Spirit.

#### 22. **What does the bishop say and do when he confirms a candidate?** The bishop traces the sign of the cross with chrism on the candidate's forehead and says, "[ Name], be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit."