

CONFIRMATION

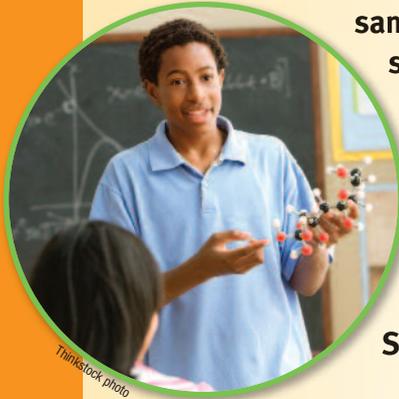
Circle gifts you recognize in yourself. Ask two people in your group what each thinks is your greatest gift.

- Listening
- Singing
- Explaining
- Cheering on
- Cheering up
- Kindness
- Patience
- Daring
- Making music
- Planning
- Visiting
- Friendliness
- Insight
- Understanding
- Directness
- Creativity
- Energy
- Strength
- Calm
- Endurance
- Speed
- Imagination
- Vision
- Sensitivity
- Self-control
- Discipline
- Work ethic
- Hope
- Confidence
- Dependability
- Kindness
- Caring
- Healing
- Charm
- Speaking
- Good looks
- Critical thinking
- Leadership
- Followership
- Community building
- Unifying
- Follow through
- Mellowness
- Anger
- Dissatisfaction
- Gratitude
- Faith
- Love

What Gifts Do I Bring to the Community?

There are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit; varieties of services, but the same Lord; varieties of activities, but it is the same God who inspires them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

1 Corinthians 12.4-7



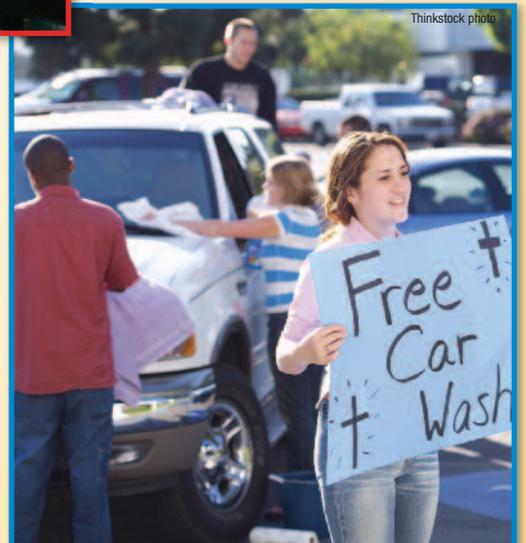
- How is the Spirit prompting me to use my gifts for the common good?
- What makes love the greatest of the Spirit's gifts?



If I speak in the tongues of mortals or angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have prophetic powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, if I have faith so as to move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

1 Corinthians 13.1-2, 7



We Are Sealed in the **SPIRIT** . . .



Confirmation is a sacrament of initiation, the second of three sacraments through which

people enter the Christian community. New Christians enter the Church through baptism, receive the Holy Spirit in confirmation, and join the community at eucharist.

Most new Christians were adults in the early centuries of the Church. To receive baptism, adults bathed in pools of water. They plunged down into the water, signifying Jesus' death, and rose from the water to share

every new Christian. They wished to continue confirming Christians to connect members of small Christian communities with the larger communities of which they were the shepherds. Baptism and confirmation became separate sacraments.

Today because the Church baptizes most new members as

infants, many young Catholics receive the sacraments of initiation in a different order than Christians in the early church did, usually making first communion before they are confirmed.

However, the Church still connects these three

sacraments of initiation.

Confirmation usually takes place during a celebration of the Eucharist. The bishop asks those to be confirmed to answer in their own voices the questions their parents answered for them at baptism.



Do you believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who came upon the apostles at Pentecost and today is given to you sacramentally in confirmation?

Do you believe in the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

Confirmation preparation initiates teens into the full life of the Christian community.

This is why confirmation programs invite teens to join the choir, lector, serve as eucharistic ministers, act with groups that work for justice, teach the Word to young children, or use their gifts to serve people in need in the community.



Jesus' risen life. The new Christians then put on white robes and received an anointing with the Spirit—the sacrament of confirmation. Baptism and confirmation formed a double sacrament in one celebration.

In the early Church the Christian newly baptized in water and sealed in the Holy Spirit then joined the community around the table of the Lord to celebrate and share the eucharist, the third sacrament of initiation. These three sacraments initiate new Christians into the life of the community that lives in the Spirit and shares the Body of Christ in order to become the Body of Christ in the world.

Over the centuries as Christianity grew, bishops could no longer baptize



by Laying on **HANDS**



A sponsor blesses a teen

Two gestures signify the gift of the Spirit which the bishop hands on in the sacrament of confirmation. The first gesture is the laying on of hands. This gesture is somewhat like parents putting an arm around or on a teen's

shoulders to express confidence in their son or daughter or to give them strength.

In celebrating the sacrament today, the bishop extends his arms over all who will be confirmed and prays:

All-powerful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
by water and the Holy Spirit you
freed your sons and daughters
from sin and gave them new life.
Send your Holy Spirit upon them
to be their Helper and Guide.

Give them the spirit of wisdom
and understanding, the spirit of
right judgment and courage,
the spirit of knowledge and
reverence. Fill them with the
spirit of wonder and awe in your
presence.

We ask this through Christ our
Lord. Amen.



Sponsors stand with their confirmands.



and Anointing with **CHRISM**

After praying the gifts of Spirit upon the teens to be confirmed, the bishop anoints each person with the sign of the cross on the forehead, using a perfumed oil called chrism. He calls each person by name and says, “___, be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.” The person being confirmed responds, “Amen.”

Sponsors accompany candidates for confirmation to stand together before the bishop. Sponsors put their right hands on the shoulders of the candidate.

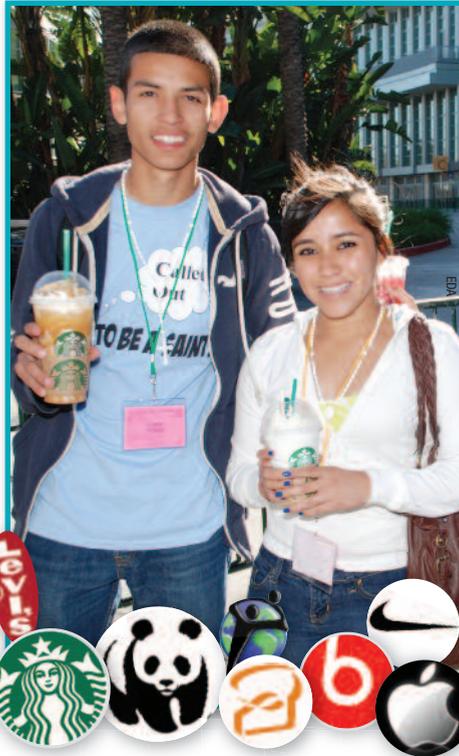
The SPIRIT'S SEAL of Approval Is the Cross



The bishop uses chrism to anoint us with the seal of the Holy Spirit. Along with fire and wind, oil is a traditional sign of the Spirit's presence. King David's anointing with oil filled him with the Spirit. The oil the Church uses for anointing in confirmation is olive oil with the fragrance of sweet-smelling balsam added.

The sacramental sign makes visible and present a spiritual reality—the presence of the Spirit. Oil is free flowing like the Spirit. Rubbed in the skin, oil heals and soothes.

Early Christians used the olive tree, the olive, and olive oil as symbols of the three persons of the Trinity. They likened olive trees, which live for centuries, to God the Creator from whom all things come. They compared the olives, the fruit of the tree, to Jesus, God's Son. The useful, soothing, free-flowing oil pressed from within the fruit of the tree symbolized the Spirit, the love between Father and Son and among Christians.



At confirmation we are sealed in the love of the Father, Son, and Spirit. A seal indicates quality and belonging. Teens wear many seals on their bodies—Guess, Levi's, Nike. High schools and colleges put their seals on diplomas. Many companies consider their logos a seal of quality. In the ancient world slaves and soldiers were marked with a brand to show to whom they belonged.

This seal of the Holy Spirit marks the Christian as a full and genuine member of the community. The seal shows we belong to the community. Each of us individually and all of us together as a community share the gift of the one Spirit.

On World Water Day (March 22) Jeanna Artig lugged five gallons of water with her throughout her six-hour school day. Women and girls spend 200 million hours every day walking to collect water. As a confirmation project, Jeanna seeks to raise awareness and money for village wells.



St. Paul Pioneer Press, photographer Jean Pieri

How Ready for CONFIRMATION Am I?



- What is my commitment to my parish community?
- How will I use my gifts for the common good?



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