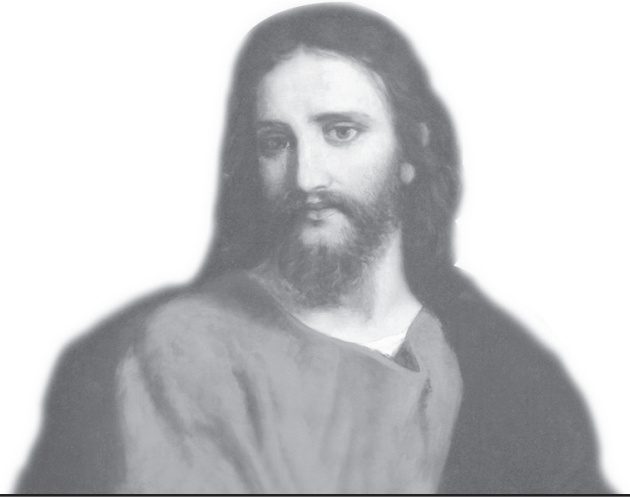


# DISCOVER

## the Joy of Christ



## How does Confirmation complement Baptism?

There is a direct connection between the Sacrament of Baptism and the Sacrament of Confirmation. In the Sacrament of Baptism, the Most Holy Trinity gives us sanctifying grace – God’s life in our soul. We become adopted children of God and a member of the Catholic Church.

In Baptism, the Holy Spirit enriches our soul with the three virtues of faith, hope and charity which enables us to believe in God, to trust and hope in His promises and to love Him and our neighbor. In Baptism, we also receive the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit which gives us the power to live and act under the promptings of the Holy Spirit. We learn to recognize these interior promptings through quiet prayer and they aid us in making decisions in conformity with God’s will, leading to a life of joy and peace. The seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit are Wisdom, Fortitude, Knowledge, Fear of the Lord, Understanding, Right Counsel and Piety.

Faith, hope and charity and the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit are given in Baptism for personal sanctification, so that we can enter into a relationship with Jesus Christ and learn how more and more within the Church to think like Him, to make decisions like Him, to act in conformity with His commandments, and to hope as He invites us to.

In the Sacrament of Confirmation, the Holy Spirit **strengthens** our faith, hope, and charity and the Gifts so that we can be faithful witnesses of Jesus Christ by living our faith “out loud”. In our culture today, we are bombarded with the lie that our value as human beings is based on how we look and the materials we possess. This contradicts the truth that our dignity comes from being a child of God, created in His image and likeness, and destined for eternal life with God in Heaven.

Furthermore, we face a society that is indifferent to God and focuses on self. Selfishness only leads to hopelessness and despair. We find meaning in life through self-giving love. We were created by God and for God, and our joy lies in knowing, loving and serving God and our neighbor through self-giving love.

As you can see, the Virtues and Gifts that are strengthened in Confirmation are crucial for us to know who we are in Christ, to protect our dignity, and to be faithful in following Him. We always want to grow in our cooperation with the graces of the Sacrament. Confirmation is not an end or a graduation, but a deepening of what was given at Baptism. We are being called to a greater public witness of faith in Christ: Confirmation enables us to fulfill this call. Let us pray for a strengthening of faith, hope, and charity as well as the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in our lives. And let us be thankful to God for Confirmation and all the Divine gifts that He bestows upon us in this Sacrament in order to live as committed disciples of Jesus Christ.

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