

Definition of Confirmation

adapted from paragraph 1285 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church

The following definition must be memorized; if a teen does not memorize these three sentences, they will not be confirmed:

Confirmation is necessary for me to complete the grace given to me in baptism.

By the sacrament of Confirmation, I am more perfectly bound to Christ and His Church, and strengthened by the Gift of the Holy Spirit.

When Confirmed, I, as a Soldier of Christ, am obligated to share in the mission of Christ and His Church, to spread and defend the faith by my words and actions.

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit are what we would call perfections, habits, or virtues. In Confirmation we these Gifts are strengthened in us, for the purpose of spreading and defending the faith, through the Gift of the Holy Spirit. These Gifts were given in our Baptism but strengthened in Confirmation. The Gifts strengthen the two powers of the rational soul that were injured by original sin, namely the intellect and the will:

Intellectual:

- Wisdom
- Knowledge
- Understanding
- Counsel

Moral (relating to the Free Will):

- Fortitude
- Piety
- Fear of the Lord

Fruits of the Holy Spirit

The Fruits of the Holy Spirit are the 12 categories of human acts that flow from the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Different translations of scripture render different names for the fruits. They are: charity (love), joy, peace, patience (forbearance), benignity (kindness), goodness (probity or righteousness), longanimity (long-suffering), mildness (gentleness), faith, modesty, continency (self-control), and chastity.