

Content of Sacramental Catechesis for Confirmation

Confirmation is a sacrament of initiation

“The rite of confirmation is also to be revised in order that the intimate connection of this sacrament with the whole of Christian initiation may stand out more clearly.”

Confirmation bestows the gift of the Holy Spirit

In the Apostolic Constitution Pope Paul VI states that receiving the Holy Spirit as a gift is the “very essence of the rite of Confirmation.”

Confirmation endows us with the special strength of the Holy Spirit

In the Apostolic Constitution Pope Paul VI points out that in baptism the faithful are born anew by baptism, “strengthened by the sacrament of Confirmation, and finally are sustained by the food of eternal life in the eucharist.

The essential action of confirmation is the anointing with chrism:

“In treating the rite of Confirmation, it is fitting to consider the sign of anointing and what it signifies and imprints: a spiritual seal. Anointing, in biblical and other ancient symbolism, is rich in meaning: oil is a sign of abundance and joy; it cleanses and limbers; oil is a sign of healing . . .; and it makes radiant with beauty, health, and strength.” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1293)

Configures us to Christ:

The Rite of Confirmation states that “This giving of the Holy Spirit conforms believers more fully to Christ . . .”

Confirmation makes us witnesses of Jesus Christ:

The Apostolic Constitution points out that Confirmation makes us ‘true witness of Christ’ (AC,DOL #2502) and the purpose of this ‘witness’ is so that they may build up “the Body in faith and love” (RC#2).