



Teens and Parents Please Read

St. Thomas the Apostle Confirmation Experience

Why is the *Sacrament of Confirmation* important to you? First of all, it is tied to two Sacraments, which you will most likely have received – *Baptism* and the *Eucharist*. Confirmation is its own Sacrament, but is not independent of the Sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist. Confirmation is about the continuation of your journey of faith. And, although it may be the last of the *Initiation Rites*, and signifies full membership in the Church, your journey-of-faith continues throughout life.

The Confirmation experience we offer isn't about crossing t's or dotting the i's. And preparation for Confirmation isn't about you putting hours in a classroom. It's not even really about the quantity of information passed on to you. Confirmation is all about your conversion process and becoming a faithful witness to being a disciple of Jesus.

You need to make a commitment if Confirmation is going to make a significant difference in your life. If you want Confirmation to have a dramatic impact on your life, you will have to be open to let your heart be converted by the Holy Spirit. If you are to truly encounter the Holy Spirit in a meaningful way, there are four huge things which need to take place: 1) strive to understand more about the *Personal Call* you have from God and your *Uniqueness*. In other words, you need to begin to understand yourself better and to know God in a more meaningful way; 2) you need to see yourself and the world with more than your eyes.

You need to go deeper in the faith journey. A relationship with God is a must, “God and you responding to one another” 3) you then need to *Trust God*. This means you need to understand and experience Jesus in the day-to-day of your life; 4) you also need to more clearly understand what being a Catholic really means. This understanding requires seeing the world more clearly in respect to the Gospel message.

Whether you realize it or not, you already fully have God’s gift of grace. You received it at Baptism, but living a more meaningful and fuller life is accomplished by tapping into that grace. The promise our Confirmation Team makes to you is this; if you truly open yourself up and commit to the experiences that will be offered, God’s grace will touch you more. You will know God better and identify better to what you are called to be as a Christian, and hopefully, you will choose to respond to that call.

You also need to understand that the Sacrament of Confirmation is not a private matter, it involves us all. Parents, you too will continue to play a key role in the road to Confirmation. It is the witness of parental love that impacts the life of a teen more than anything. It is parental sharing of self and their gifts that reveals God’s grace in action better than anything. Therefore, one of the things I am asking parents to do is pray for your teen during the Confirmation experience. I would also strongly encourage you to pray as a family. Please play an active role in supporting our full *STAP* youth experience offerings.

God’s Choicest Blessings!!

Deacon Ed
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