

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Jesus, the Second Person of the Trinity, spent only thirty three years in his human form inhabiting our planet. Why God chose only these few years, I do not know. Many of us would say he should have stayed longer.

Jesus told his Apostles that his Father would send the Holy Spirit to replace him on this earth. This Spirit, “will teach you everything and will remind you of all that I have said to you.” (John 14:26).

The Holy Spirit remains with the human race through all ages and with each person individually in our age. The Holy Spirit is God, equal and unified with the Father and the Son.

The Sacrament of Confirmation is the Father’s way of sending the Holy Spirit upon each Christian personally and individually. Confirmation becomes each person’s Pentecost. However, there is no loud wind nor tongues of fire. “Blessed are those who have not seen (nor heard) but do believe.” (John 20:29).

Holy Spirit and Holy Ghost are synonymous names for the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity. Since the Second Vatican Council, the Catholic Church has preferred Holy Spirit but Holy Ghost is still equally correct. Many of us remember from 1945 the studio cartoon of Casper, the Friendly Ghost. Casper had a hard time being accepted because he was a ghost but in the end Casper saved a family from being evicted and displaced.

Jesus called the Holy Spirit an advocate. The Holy Ghost keeps us from being evicted and breaking up our family. The Holy Ghost is wisdom personified and all men and women of Good Will desire wisdom.

Today’s world is full of joy and opportunities but also treacherous underfoot. Parents who are bringing up children know how much they agonize over all the pitfalls and traps laid for young people. The Holy Ghost is a quiet and friendly Spirit dispensing wisdom individually to those who will listen in a quiet moment. No parent would ever reject the wisdom of God and this is precisely what is given in the Sacrament of Confirmation.

The twenty-one Confirmandi who are preparing for Confirmation on Saturday, April 6, 2019 are in preparation through a series of exercises found on the internet and on their cell phones. They are invited to talk with their parents about these exercises since the parents have the wisdom of many more years and the grace of being the parent. I personally encourage the parents of those being Confirmed to talk with their children about these exercises.

There are some adults who have not been confirmed. I invite them to consider receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation because at any age we can use the Holy Ghost as we travel this mine strewn earth. There is adult Confirmation in the Cathedral on Sunday, November 18, 2018. There is a preparatory session for this on Saturday, October 13th, 10:30 AM in the rectory as part of our Immigration Toward the Catholic Faith. We will be talking about the Sacraments. If you have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation and are interested in receiving this Sacrament of the Holy Spirit, please call Sandy so that I may be prepared for the number that may come.

The Diocese has also noted that on the Feast of Pentecost which this year falls on June 9th, the Pastor/Administrator of the parish may confer Confirmation on adults who have not received this Sacrament. If the date of Confirmation on Sunday, November 18th is not good for you, please also let Sandy know and we will arrange for Confirmation on the Feast of Pentecost.