

PARISH FAMILY ABLAZE (10-15-23): BALTIMORE CATECHISM NO. 2
PART 3, LESSON 25—CONFIRMATION

PRAYERS

- I. “Signum Crucis”: “In nomine Patris et Filii et Spiritus Sancti. Amen.”
- II. “Prayer to the Holy Spirit”
- III. Saint and Virtue:
 - A. Saint Joan of Arc
 - B. Responsibility

TRUE/FALSE

- 1. In Baptism, we become children of God the Father and members of Christ’s Body, but we must wait for Confirmation to receive the Holy Spirit.
- 2. Whatever is “spiritual” is of the Holy Spirit and, therefore, holy.
- 3. In the Roman Rite, an infant in danger of death may be Confirmed.
- 4. The sacramental grace of Confirmation gives one a right to the actual graces he needs when tempted against faith.
- 5. The bishop is the usual minister of Confirmation.
- 6. Baptism imparts a spiritual “character,” but Confirmation does not.
- 7. The Oil of Catechumens used in Baptism is the same oil used by the Bishop when anointing the forehead of one being Confirmed.
- 8. Like Catholics, Lutherans and Methodists ministers administer valid Confirmations to those in their ecclesial communities.
- 9. When facing suffering or death, a Confirmed Catholic no longer has the duty to defend and profess the faith.
- 10. The Holy Spirit operates within different historical circumstances and geographical regions by changing doctrine essentially and substantially to conform to the uniqueness of each particular period and place.

CONFIRMATION

- I. Confirmation—“the Sacrament through which the Holy Spirit comes to us in a special way and enables us to profess our faith as strong and perfect Christians and soldiers of Jesus Christ” (#330).
 - A. Effects:
 - 1. Increases sanctifying grace

2. Gives its special sacramental grace to help us:
 - a. To live our faith loyally
 - b. To profess it courageously
3. Benefits:
 1. Strengthens us to combat dangers to our salvation
 2. Equips us to defend the Catholic Faith more effectively
 3. Though not necessary for salvation, it is tremendously helpful, and deliberately to neglect being Confirmed would be a sin
4. Imparts a lasting character on the soul:
 - a. Marks the Christian as a soldier in the army of Christ
 - b. Strengthens the soldier in spiritual warfare to overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil with the following weapons:

>SUFFERING and SACRIFICE—To make REPARATION for his own sins and those of others

>PRAYER—persevering, deepening, developing, increasing

>GOOD EXAMPLE—greater clarity and increasing consistency

>Fruitful ENCOURAGEMENT to weak or fallen-away Catholics, or to those interested in the Catholic Faith

B. Proper Disposition to receive Confirmation:

1. Being in a state of grace
2. Knowing well the chief truths and duties of religion

II. Minister and Rite:

A. The usual minister is the bishop, but priests administer Confirmation in certain prescribed circumstances.

B. Matter and Form:

1. Bishop or priest extends hands over those to be confirmed, praying that they may receive the Holy Spirit
2. Bishop or priest lays his hand on the head of each person and anoints the forehead with holy chrism in the form of a cross
3. “I sign you with the sign of the Cross and I confirm you with the chrism of salvation, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” (Translation from Latin into English from the TLR)

- “N., be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.” “Peace be with you.” (Translation from Latin into English from the NOR)
4. Bishop gives a slight slap on the person’s cheek (TLR)—reminding the Christian soldier to be prepared for suffering, or even death, in proclaiming and defending Christ and His Church
 5. Holy Chrism and the Cross:
 - a. Oil—limbers up spiritual muscles, strengthens the soul, sweetens the sweat of bearing the Cross
 - b. The sign of the Cross reminds the one Confirmed to follow Christ more fervently: To deny himself, to pick up his Cross, and to follow Christ and all the saints who have gone before him through suffering unto death
- C. Holy Oils—Blessed by the Bishop at the Chrism Mass on Holy Thursday:
1. Oil of Catechumens for:
 - a. Anointing those to be Baptized
 - b. Anointing the hands of those ordained to priesthood
 2. Oil of the Sick—Anointing of the Sick/Extreme Unction
 3. Holy (Sacred) Chrism:
 - a. Baptism
 - b. Confirmation
 - c. Consecration of Bishops

DISCUSSION QUESTION

In the Roman Rite, Confirmation may be administered to those seven years (age of discretion) or older. Eastern Catholic Rites administer Chrismation to infants after their Baptism. What are the advantages and disadvantages of each approach?

QUESTIONS FOR FATHER JACK

MISSION/FINAL PRAYER