

The Sacraments



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Imprimatur: ✠ Frank J. Rodimer, J.C.D., Bishop of Paterson

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CPSIA December 2015 10 98 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 L/P

© 2002 CATHOLIC BOOK PUBLISHING CORP., Totowa, N.J.

Printed in China

ISBN 978-0-89942-522-1

www.catholicbookpublishing.com

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

CONFIRMATION is the Sacrament by which we receive the Holy Spirit in a special way. The gift of the Holy Spirit in this Sacrament helps us to live a Christian life. We also are given the strength and courage to be a good example to others.

The Bishop is the usual minister of the Sacrament of Confirmation. He anoints our forehead with oil, and he prays for us to receive the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit. These Gifts help us bear a more perfect witness to Jesus Christ.

Ten days after Jesus returned to His Father in heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit to the Apostles and to Mary, His Mother. He wanted them to know that they were not alone.

The Holy Spirit appeared to them in the form of tongues of fire. A great wind also swept through the house where they were gathered to pray. The power of the Holy Spirit came upon the Apostles. They grew in courage and spread the word of God. This event marked the birthday of the Catholic Church, which we celebrate every Pentecost Sunday.

We remember the Holy Spirit in a special way that day and on the day of our Confirmation, as we ask for His continued guidance in our lives.



THE SACRAMENT OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

JESUS gave us the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist at the Last Supper on the night before He died. While at supper, He took bread and gave it to His disciples, saying, **“Take this, all of you, and eat of it, for this is My Body, which will be given up for you.”**

When supper was ended, He took the cup of wine. Again He gave thanks and praise, gave the cup to His disciples and said, **“Take this, all of you, and drink from it, for this is the chalice of My Blood, the Blood of the new and eternal covenant, which will be poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in memory of Me.”**

Our Lord changed bread and wine into His Body and Blood, offering Himself to His Father. This was a sacrifice. His Body was to be offered on the Cross. His Blood was to be shed for the forgiveness of our sins. He then told the Apostles that He would die the next day. That was to be the **bloody** sacrifice on the Cross.

But Jesus wanted the **unbloody** sacrifice of the Last Supper to continue on earth until the end of time. In telling the Apostles to do as He had done, He made them priests and gave them power to offer this same sacrifice.