

CONFIRMATION QUESTIONS

- 1. WHAT IS A SACRAMENT?**
A Sacrament is an **OUTWARD SIGN, INSTITUTED BY CHRIST, TO GIVE GRACE.**
- 2. HOW MANY SACRAMENTS OR OUTWARD SIGNS ARE THERE? LIST THEM IN ORDER.**
There are **SEVEN** sacraments. They are (Sacraments of **INITIATION**) BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION, HOLY EUCHARIST, (Sacraments of **HEALING**) PENANCE, ANOINTING OF THE SICK (Sacraments of **VOCATION**) HOLY ORDERS and MATRIMONY.
- 3. WHAT IS CONFIRMATION?**
Confirmation is a **Sacrament** through which we receive the **Holy Spirit** in a **special way** to enable us to profess our Faith as **strong and perfect Christians** and witnesses (soldiers) of Jesus Christ.
- 4. WHAT DOES THE WORD CONFIRMATION MEAN?**
Confirmation means “**making strong**” or “**strengthening.**” The work began at our Baptism is strengthened or completed by the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- 5. WHEN WAS THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION INSTITUTED?** The Sacrament of Confirmation was instituted by Christ **AFTER** His Resurrection, but **BEFORE** His Ascension, when see promised to send the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles. (See Luke 24:49)
- 6. WHO IS THE USUAL OR ORDINARY MINISTER OF CONFIRMATION?** The usual or ordinary minister of Confirmation is the **BISHOP.**
- 7. CAN ANYONE ELSE ADMINISTER THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION?**
Yes, in certain circumstances, the Law of the Church gives the power to administer Confirmation to **PRIESTS.** (Examples: Adult Converts, those in danger of death)
- 8. HOW DOES THE BISHOP ADMINISTER CONFIRMATION?**
The Bishop **ENTENDS HIS HANDS** over those to be confirmed, **PRAYS** that they receive the Holy Spirit and **ANOINTS** the forehead of each with **HOLY CHRISM** in the form of the cross as he **SAYS THE WORDS.**
(This is the **outward sign** of Confirmation)
- 9. WHAT WORDS DOES THE BISHOP SAY WHEN HE ANOINTS THE PERSON?**
The Bishop says: “**(Name) BE SEALED WITH THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.**”

10. **WHAT IS HOLY CHRISM?** Holy Chrism is a mixture of **OLIVE OIL & BALM**, blessed by the Bishop during Holy Week.
11. **WHAT IS BALM?** Balm is a sweet perfume.
12. **WHAT IS MEANT BY THE ANOINTING OF THE FOREHEAD WITH CHRISM IN THE FORM OF THE CROSS?** By anointing the forehead with Chrism in the sign of the cross, is meant that the Christian who is confirmed must openly profess his/her faith, never be ashamed of it and rather die than deny it.
13. **WHY IS OIL USED?** Oil is used because it is a sign of **STRENGTH** or **POWER**. (It is a source of energy and spiritual strength)
14. **WHAT IS THE CHARACTER OF CONFIRMATION?**
The character of Confirmation is a spiritual and indelible mark.
15. **HOW MANY TIMES MAY CONFIRMATION BE RECEIVED?**
CONFIRMATION MAY BE RECEIVED ONLY ONCE SINCE IT LEAVES A LASTING CHARACTER ON THE SOUL.
16. **WHAT OTHER SACRAMENTS MAY BE RECEIVED ONLY ONCE?**
BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION and HOLY ORDERS may be received only once because they leave a lasting character on the soul which remains forever.
(All of these Sacraments make use of HOLY CHRISM)
17. **WHAT IS NECESSARY TO RECEIVE THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION WORTHLY?** To receive the Sacrament of Confirmation worthily it is necessary to be in the **STATE OF GRACE**, have the **PROPER DISPOSITION** and **KNOW THE CHIEF TRUTHS AND DUTIES OF OUR RELIGION.**
18. **WHO SHOULD RECEIVE THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION?**
EVERY BAPTIZED CATHOLIC should receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.
19. **WHO DO WE RECEIVE IN CONFIRMATION?** In Confirmation we receive the **HOLY SPIRIT**, the Third Person in the Blessed Trinity.
20. **WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?** The Holy Spirit is God. The third person of the Blessed Trinity.

21. WHAT IS THE BLESSED TRINITY?

The Blessed Trinity is a Mystery. It is a truth of the Catholic Church that states: We believe in one God. There are three persons in God. All are equal. The first person of the Blessed Trinity is God the Father. The second person of the Blessed Trinity is God the Son (Jesus Christ) and the third person of the Blessed Trinity is God the Holy Spirit. A mystery is a truth that we can never fully understand.

22. BUT, DIDN'T YOU RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT IN BAPTISM?

Yes, but that was for personal help. In Confirmation, you receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit that I may be enabled to profess the faith of Christ to other people, to be a witness for Christ in the world.

23. WHAT ARE THE SEVEN GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT? IN ORDER.

The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit are: WISDOM, UNDERSTANDING, COUNSEL, FORTITUDE, KNOWLEDGE, PIETY AND FEAR OF THE LORD.

24. WHEN DID THE HOLY SPIRIT COME DOWN UPON THE APOSTLES?

The Holy Spirit came down upon the Apostles on Pentecost Sunday, fifty days after Easter, while they were in the upper room or cenacle. Pentecost Sunday is also known as the Birthday of the Church. (Acts 2)

25. WHAT WERE THE OUTWARD SIGNS OF THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT UPON THE APOSTLES?

The outward signs of the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles were the TONGUES OF FIRE AND THE SOUND OF THE WIND. (Act 2).

26. WHO WERE THE APOSTLES?

The Apostles were twelve men chosen by Jesus to be his first Bishops to aid him in the establishment of the church. The names of the Apostles are: Peter, Andrew, James the Greater, John, Phillip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James the Lesser, Jude, Judas, Simon and (Matthias.) (Luke 6:12-16; ACT 1:15-26).

27. WHAT IS YOUR PATRON SAINT?

The Bishop might ask the children what names they have chosen for Confirmation. The children should know a little about the Saint they have chosen – Details of Her/his life, and why they have chosen this particular name. The Feast Day should also be known.

28. WHY DO WE HAVE TO TAKE ANOTHER NAME AT CONFIRMATION?

We usually take another name at Confirmation to mark the occasion, because it is a long standing tradition of the Church, and so that we might imitate or model our lives after the virtues of a saint. A person may choose a new saint's name, biblical Name, or may use his Baptismal name.

29. WHO IS A MARTYR?

A martyr is a person who dies for his/her faith. Martyr means witness.

30. WHO WAS THE FIRST MARTYR?

The first Christian martyr was St. Stephen. He was a Deacon of the Church, and he was stoned to death because of his witness to the faith: His Feast Day is December 26th.

31. NAME SOME OTHR MARTYRS.

MALE: ST. PETER, ST. LAWRENCE, ALL OF THE APOSTLES EXCEPT ST. JOHN, ST. THOMAS MORE, ST. ANDREW, ST. BLAISE, ST. VALENTINE, ST. MAXIMILLIAN KOLBE, ETC.

FEMALE: ST. AGNES, ST. CECILIA, ST. BARBARA, ST. MARIA GORETTI, ST. AGATHA, ST. LUCY, ST. DOROTHY, ST. SUZANNE, ALL NORTH AMERICAN MARTYRS.

32. WHO IS THE INVISIBLE HEAD OF THE CHURCH?

The invisible head of the church is Jesus Christ.

33. WHO IS THE POPE?

The Pope is the visible head of the church. He is the chosen representative of Christ on earth. The first Pope was St. Peter. The present Pope is Francis. Our former Pope was Pope Benedict XVI. He was the former Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger. Head of the Congregation of the Faith and native of Germany. He was preceded by John Paul II. Who was recently canonized as a Saint. He was the former Archbishop of Krakow in Poland and was known by the name Karol Cardinal Wojtyla. Some of our recent Popes were: Pope John Paul II, Pope Pius XII, Saint Pope John XXIII, Pope Paul VI, and Pope John Paul I. The Pope or Holy Father resides in the Vatican City State which is near Rome, Italy.

34. DOES THE POPE HAVE OTHER TITLES?

Yes. The Pope is also known as the Holy Father. He is also the Bishop of Rome.

35. WHO IS THE BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF SCRANTON?

The Bishop of the Diocese of Scranton is Most Reverend Joseph Bambera, D.D.

36. WHO IS THE ASSISTANT OR AUXILIARY BISHOP TO THE DIOCESE OF SCRANTON? The Assistant or Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Scranton is MOST REVEREND JOHN M. DOUGHERTY, D.D.

WHO IS THE RETIRED BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF SCRANTON?

Bishop James C. Timlin, D.D. is the Retired Bishop of Scranton.

37. WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE CATHEDRAL OF THE DIOCESE OF

SCRANTON? The name of the Cathedral of the Diocese of Scranton is St. Peter's Cathedral.

38. WHAT IS THE REASON FOR HAVING A SPONSOR AT CONFIRMATION?

We have a sponsor at Confirmation because they have the duty of helping us to become mature Catholics by PRAYER, WORD, AND EXAMPLE. A sponsor may be of either sex. It is highly encouraged that one chooses the sponsor they had at Baptism or another Catholic who is a practical or practicing Catholic.

39. WHAT ARE THE SACRAMENTS OF THE DEAD?

The Sacraments of the Dead are BAPTISM AND PENANCE. They are called Sacraments of the Dead because our souls are dead to God's grace because of sin (original or actual). It has nothing to do with physical death – it concerns SPIRITUAL DEATH.

40. WHAT ARE THE SACRAMENTS OF THE LIVING?

The Sacraments of the Living are: CONFIRMATION, HOLY EUCHARISTIC, ANOINTING OF THE SICK, HOLY ORDERS, AND MATRIMONY. They are called Sacraments of the Living because our souls are filled with God's life and Grace when we receive them.

41. WHAT IS BAPTISM?

Baptism is a sacrament through which original sin is removed and the soul is filled with grace. Through this Sacrament, we become Christians, Children of God and members of the Church.

42. WHAT ARE THE OTHER NAMES OFTEN GIVEN TO THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE? The Sacrament of Penance is also called CONFESSION (tell) or RECONCILIATION (forgiveness).

43. WHAT DOES RECONCILIATION MEAN? It means to be reunited to God.

44. WHO CHANGED THE NAME OF THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE TO RECONCILIATION? Pope Paul VI and the Bishop's of the Second Vatican Council. (1963-1965).

45. WHY WAS THE NAME CHANGED?

The name has changed in order to more clearly express what occurs when we receive this sacrament. It helps us to understand that we are reconciled with God and one another.

46. FROM ALL THAT WE HAVE SAID, IT WOULD SEEM THAT CONFIRMATION IS NECESSARY FOR SALVATION. IS THAT TRUE?

No. Confirmation is not necessary for salvation. However, it helps us on our journey to God's Kingdom by making us stronger in our faith.

47. WILL THERE EVER BE A TIME WHEN THERE WILL BE MORE THAN SEVEN SACRAMENTS? No. Because Christ instituted only seven sacraments.

There will never be more or less. The ceremonies surrounding the sacraments may change, but the number and substance of the sacraments cannot be changed.

48. WHERE DID THE SACRAMENTS COME FROM?

The Sacraments come from Jesus death on the cross.