



ORDER OF CONFIRMATION 'BE SEALED' ENVELOPES

BACKGROUND

The Sacrament of Confirmation is conferred in a ritual called the Order (or Rite) of Confirmation. Through Confirmation, we are filled with the Holy Spirit to be witnesses for Jesus Christ in our lives. Each one of us is uniquely gifted and called to proclaim the Good News in our own place and time. Just as the monarch's of old would send a message - sealed with their mark, throughout their realm - Jesus sends us too!

In the Prayer of Invocation (as seen in the Flame of Faith Confirmation video), the bishop calls upon the Holy Spirit to give the candidates the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and fortitude, the spirit of knowledge and piety. Of course, the New Testament names many other gifts of the Holy Spirit, each one empowers followers of Jesus to witness to his love and share the Good News in their own unique way. Confirmation.

In the Anointing with Chrism, candidates are 'Sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit' as the bishop makes the Sign of the Cross on their forehead - the 'mark' of the Holy Spirit that confirms our belonging to Christ (CCC, 1295-1296).

This activity provides children and parents an opportunity to reflect on effects of the Sacrament of Confirmation.



Flame of Faith
Confirmation

YOU WILL NEED:

- A blank envelopes (one per child).
- Pens/pencils
- 'Gifts of the Holy Spirit' slips on the following page (one full set per child).
- Place each 'gift' in a container (i.e. all the 'wisdom' labels in one container, all the 'understanding' labels in another container and so on. You will have seven containers in all).
- Print out the 'Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit' on sticky-backed labels (one per child).





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INSTRUCTIONS

- Prepare by telling the children about God's love for them and how each of them is unique and precious.
- Give each child an envelope and invite them write their name on the front in a creative way and decorate around it with images that represent their unique likes, gifts and personality.
- Show the children the containers with the Gifts of the Spirit slips and discuss each gift.
- Invite the children to collect one gift from each of the containers so that they have a complete set.
- Have the children place their Gifts of the Spirit slips in their decorated envelopes.
- Teach the children the words that the bishop will say as they are anointed with the Oil of Chrism, 'Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit'.
- Give them an opportunity to practice the words and responses with their parents.
- Give each child a 'Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit' label.
- Have the children seal their envelope with a 'Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit' label.

Bishop - Makes the cross on your forehead with the oil of chrism and says, '[Your name], be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit'.

You - 'Amen'.

Bishop - Touches your cheek and says, 'Peace be with you'.

You - 'And with your spirit'.



