

Confirmation gives the gift of the Spirit

The following is the text from Pope Francis' general audience at the Vatican January 29.

Vatican City

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

In our continuing catechesis on the seven sacraments, we now reflect on Confirmation, which, together with Baptism and the Eucharist, is one of the sacraments of Christian initiation. These sacraments make us sharers in the death and resurrection of Jesus and living members of His body, the Church.

In Confirmation, through the sacramental sign of anointing with sacred chrism, we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in order to be more closely conformed to Christ, God's "anointed one." We are also strengthened - "confirmed" - in the grace of our Baptism and in our mission of bearing daily witness to Christ and His love.

The working of the Holy Spirit in our lives is reflected in the seven spiritual gifts of wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord. Today let us **thank** the Lord for the grace of our Confirmation and **ask** that, filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit, we may always **mirror** Christ's presence in our relations with others, our openness to those in need and our living witness to the Gospel message of joy and peace.