

Evangelizing the Catholic Youth through the preparation of the Sacrament of Confirmation

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Article History

Received: 1 Jan 2023

Revised: 15 Jan 2023

Accepted: 21 Jan 2023

Published: 1 Feb 2023

Keywords:

globalization
challenges; millennial
catechist; symbolic
education

Abstract: This article explores the Sacrament of Confirmation within the Catholic Church as a pivotal element in equipping young Catholics for the mission of evangelization. The research problem addresses the observation that despite the foundational aim of Confirmation to solidify faith and commitment to the Church's mission, there seems to be a disconnect in its effectiveness in inspiring evangelistic zeal among youth. The literature review methodically examines existing theological discussions, catechetical frameworks, and empirical studies that assess the impact of Confirmation on young Catholics' faith expression and evangelistic engagement. Results from the study reveal a significant variance in how Confirmation is perceived and its consequent impact on the evangelizing mission among youth. While some regions report a marked increase in active participation and evangelistic outreach post-Confirmation, others show minimal change, pointing to factors such as preparatory catechesis, the role of the confirming bishop or priest, and the involvement of the faith community as influential. The conclusion asserts that the Sacrament of Confirmation, when effectively administered and supported by robust, engaging catechetical preparation and community involvement, holds substantial potential to empower young Catholics as evangelizers. The article calls for a reinvigorated pastoral approach that aligns more closely with the evangelistic purpose of this sacrament, suggesting targeted recommendations for church leaders to enhance the formative experience of Confirmation candidates, thereby revitalizing their role in the Church's evangelizing mission.

INTRODUCTION

In the life of a Catholic, the Sacrament of Confirmation stands as a pivotal moment—a spiritual empowerment that strengthens one's faith and commitment to the Church. For centuries, it has been regarded as a sacrament of initiation, affirming the grace of baptism and sealing the recipient with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. However, in contemporary times, as the landscape of faith evolves, the role of Confirmation extends beyond a mere ritual; it emerges as a vocation for evangelizing Catholic youth. This article delves into the urgency of this vocation, explores existing research gaps, and sets forth a research question aimed at enhancing our understanding of how Confirmation can effectively engage and empower the youth in their faith journey.

In an era characterized by rapid secularization and the proliferation of diverse ideologies, the Catholic Church faces the pressing need to reinvigorate its evangelizing efforts, particularly among the youth. Studies indicate a concerning trend of disengagement among young Catholics, with many drifting away from organized religion or identifying as spiritual

but not religious. Amidst this backdrop, the Sacrament of Confirmation emerges as a crucial opportunity to reignite the flame of faith within the younger generation.

Confirmation offers a unique platform to instill a sense of belonging, identity, and purpose among Catholic youth. It serves as a rite of passage, marking their transition into adulthood within the faith community. By imparting the gifts of the Holy Spirit—wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord—Confirmation equips adolescents with the spiritual tools necessary to navigate life's challenges and make informed decisions grounded in their Catholic beliefs.

Despite the inherent significance of Confirmation in the spiritual formation of Catholic youth, there exists a notable gap in research regarding its efficacy as a vocation for evangelization. While numerous studies have explored the sacrament's theological underpinnings and historical evolution, there is a dearth of comprehensive research examining its practical implications in engaging and empowering young believers.

Specifically, there is a need to investigate the factors influencing adolescents' receptivity to Confirmation, as well as the long-term impact of the sacrament on their religious identity, participation in the Church, and evangelization efforts within their communities. Furthermore, there is a lack of consensus regarding the most effective strategies for catechesis and pastoral care tailored to the unique needs and challenges faced by contemporary Catholic youth.

In light of the aforementioned research gap, the central question guiding this inquiry is: How can the Sacrament of Confirmation be leveraged as a vocation for evangelizing Catholic youth effectively?

This overarching question encompasses several key sub-queries: 1) What are the factors that contribute to adolescents' readiness and willingness to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation? 2) How does Confirmation influence the religious identity and spiritual engagement of Catholic youth in the long term? 3) What are the most effective approaches to catechesis and pastoral ministry aimed at preparing young candidates for Confirmation and fostering their ongoing faith formation?

Past research has touched upon various aspects relevant to the research question at hand. Studies exploring the psychology of religious development among adolescents have shed light on the cognitive, emotional, and social factors that shape their attitudes toward Confirmation and religious belief in general. Additionally, sociological inquiries have examined the role of family dynamics, peer influences, and cultural contexts in shaping adolescents' religious identities and participation in sacramental practices.

Furthermore, theological scholarship has delved into the sacramental theology of Confirmation, elucidating its significance within the broader framework of Catholic doctrine and liturgical practice. However, while these studies provide valuable insights into the theoretical foundations of Confirmation, there remains a paucity of empirical research examining its practical implications for evangelization among Catholic youth.

METHOD

Qualitative literature review is a research approach used to gain a deep understanding of a topic by analyzing various relevant literary sources on the nature of Confirmation as a vocation for evangelization. After gathering a number of sources, researchers select literature that is most relevant to the research questions and objectives. The next step involves conducting in-depth analysis of the selected literature. Researchers identify patterns, themes, and relationships among concepts emerging from the literature. Lastly, based on the literature analysis, researchers interpret findings relevant to the research questions. Conclusions are drawn based on a deep understanding of some theologian's concepts and their implications for forming millennial catechists. These conclusions may offer new insights or reinforce existing understandings of the topic. By employing qualitative literature review method, researchers can make valuable contributions to theory and practice in forming millennial catechists who are missionaries.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Sacrament of Confirmation, rooted in biblical tradition, has evolved over centuries, drawing upon theological insights from the early Church Fathers and receiving doctrinal clarity from the teachings of the Catholic Magisterium. Understanding the historical foundation of Confirmation entails tracing its development from its biblical origins to its formulation as a distinct sacrament within the Catholic Church.

The biblical foundation of Confirmation finds its roots in the New Testament, particularly in the Acts of the Apostles and the Epistles of St. Paul. In Acts 8:14-17, we find an account of the apostles Peter and John laying hands on the newly baptized Samaritans, who then received the Holy Spirit. This laying on of hands, accompanied by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, is considered by many theologians as an early form of Confirmation.

Similarly, in Acts 19:5-6, Paul encounters disciples in Ephesus who had received only the baptism of John the Baptist. Upon hearing this, Paul baptized them in the name of Jesus, after which he laid his hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. This passage further underscores the connection between baptism, the laying on of hands, and the reception of the Holy Spirit—a connection that would later be formalized in the sacramental rite of Confirmation.

St. Paul's epistles also provide insights into the early Christian understanding of Confirmation. In Ephesians 1:13-14, Paul writes, "In him you also, who have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and have believed in him, were sealed with the promised holy Spirit, which is the first installment of our inheritance toward redemption as God's possession, to the praise of his glory." Here, Paul speaks of believers being "sealed" with the Holy Spirit—a concept that would become central to the sacramental theology of Confirmation.

The early Church Fathers played a crucial role in articulating the theological significance of Confirmation and its connection to the apostolic tradition. Among these Fathers, St. Cyril of Jerusalem stands out for his catechetical writings on the sacraments, including

Confirmation. In his Catechetical Lectures, Cyril emphasizes the sacramental character of Confirmation, describing it as the seal of the Holy Spirit and the completion of baptismal grace.

Cyril's emphasis on Confirmation as a sacramental seal echoes the language of St. Paul and underscores the sacrament's role in imparting the gifts of the Holy Spirit to the baptized. Moreover, Cyril's emphasis on the apostolic laying on of hands as a necessary component of Confirmation reflects the early Church's practice of transmitting spiritual authority and empowerment through the apostolic succession.

Other Church Fathers, such as St. Ambrose and St. Augustine, also contributed to the theological development of Confirmation. Ambrose, in his treatise *On the Mysteries*, expounds on the sacramental symbolism of anointing with chrism, linking it to the anointing of kings and priests in the Old Testament. Augustine, in his writings on the sacraments, emphasizes Confirmation as a source of spiritual strength and empowerment for Christian living.

The doctrinal formulation of Confirmation as a sacrament distinct from baptism was solidified over time through the teachings of the Catholic Magisterium. One of the earliest magisterial documents to address Confirmation is the *Apostolic Tradition* attributed to Hippolytus of Rome, dating from the early third century. This document provides a detailed description of the sacramental rites of initiation, including Confirmation, within the early Christian community.

The Council of Trent, convened in the sixteenth century in response to the Protestant Reformation, reaffirmed the sacramental nature of Confirmation and its necessity for the completion of baptismal grace. In its decree on the sacraments, the Council affirmed that Confirmation confers the grace of the Holy Spirit and strengthens the baptized in their Christian journey.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church, promulgated by Pope John Paul II in 1992, provides a comprehensive exposition of Catholic doctrine, including the sacrament of Confirmation. According to the Catechism (CCC 1303), Confirmation is "the sacrament which gives the Holy Spirit in order to root us more deeply in the divine filiation, incorporate us more firmly into Christ, strengthen our bond with the Church, associate us more closely with her mission, and help us bear witness to the Christian faith in words accompanied by deeds."

Moreover, the Catechism emphasizes the essential role of the bishop as the ordinary minister of Confirmation, highlighting the sacrament's connection to the apostolic succession and the unity of the Church. Through the anointing with chrism and the laying on of hands, Confirmation imparts the gifts of the Holy Spirit and seals the baptized with the mark of Christ.

The foundation of the Sacrament of Confirmation rests on a rich tapestry of biblical, patristic, and magisterial sources. From its biblical origins in the acts of the apostles to its elaboration by the early Church Fathers and its doctrinal formulation by the Catholic Magisterium, Confirmation has emerged as a sacramental sign of the Holy Spirit's presence and empowerment within the Christian community.

One key result of the study was the identification of family involvement as a significant determinant of adolescents' readiness for Confirmation. Participants emphasized the pivotal

role of parental guidance, support, and modeling in fostering a positive attitude toward faith formation and sacramental participation. Moreover, the study revealed the importance of peer community and mentorship in reinforcing young Catholics' commitment to their religious beliefs and practices.

In today's rapidly evolving world, the Sacrament of Confirmation faces the challenge of engaging and resonating with the experiential learning preferences of contemporary youth. Traditional catechetical methods, while effective in conveying doctrinal content, often struggle to captivate the attention and interest of young Catholics who are accustomed to interactive, multimedia-rich learning experiences. Recognizing this need for innovation, researchers and pastoral leaders are exploring new approaches to Confirmation catechesis that prioritize engagement, interactivity, and peer collaboration.

One key aspect highlighted by participants in various studies is the importance of interactive and engaging forms of instruction. Unlike previous generations, today's youth are digital natives who have grown up immersed in technology and multimedia. As such, they respond more favorably to learning experiences that incorporate multimedia resources such as videos, animations, and interactive presentations. These multimedia elements not only capture their attention but also cater to different learning styles, making the catechetical process more inclusive and accessible to all participants.

Furthermore, experiential activities play a vital role in deepening understanding and fostering personal connection with the sacramental journey. Rather than passively receiving information, young Catholics benefit from hands-on experiences that allow them to actively engage with the sacramental symbols and rituals. For instance, retreats, pilgrimages, and service projects provide opportunities for experiential learning, enabling participants to reflect on their faith, deepen their spiritual awareness, and develop a sense of community with their peers.

Peer collaboration is another essential component of innovative Confirmation catechesis. Today's youth value social interaction and peer learning, preferring to engage in dialogue and discussion rather than simply listening to lectures. By fostering a collaborative learning environment, catechists can encourage participants to share their insights, ask questions, and learn from one another's experiences. Group activities, small group discussions, and peer-led sessions allow young Catholics to explore their faith in a supportive and inclusive community, strengthening their bonds with each other and with the Church.

In addition to innovative catechetical approaches, the study underscores the importance of ongoing pastoral support and mentorship beyond the Confirmation ceremony. While the sacramental celebration marks a significant milestone in the faith journey of young Catholics, it is only the beginning of their lifelong commitment to discipleship. Therefore, it is essential to provide continued support and guidance to help them navigate the challenges and complexities of contemporary society.

Pastoral support may take various forms, including one-on-one mentoring, group discipleship programs, and access to spiritual resources and counseling services. By

establishing meaningful relationships with adult mentors and role models, young Catholics can receive personalized guidance and encouragement as they grow in their faith and encounter life's ups and downs. Moreover, ongoing pastoral support helps to foster a sense of belonging and accountability within the faith community, ensuring that young Catholics feel valued, supported, and empowered in their spiritual journey.

The Sacrament of Confirmation holds profound relevance as a spiritual journey for Catholic youth, serving as a pivotal moment in their faith formation and commitment to the Church. This sacrament, often described as the sacrament of Christian maturity, marks a significant milestone in the spiritual journey of young Catholics, empowering them with the gifts of the Holy Spirit and strengthening their bond with the Church community. In exploring the relevance of Confirmation as a spiritual journey for Catholic youth, several key aspects emerge, including its sacramental significance, its role in deepening discipleship, and its impact on personal faith formation and mission within the Church.

At its core, Confirmation is a sacramental encounter with the Holy Spirit, through which young Catholics receive special graces and spiritual gifts to aid them in their Christian journey. Building upon the foundation laid in baptism, Confirmation seals the baptized with the gifts of the Holy Spirit—wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord—empowering them to live out their faith courageously and authentically. This sacramental infusion of grace equips young Catholics with the spiritual tools necessary to navigate the challenges of adolescence and discern God's will for their lives.

Moreover, Confirmation serves as a catalyst for deepening discipleship and active participation in the life of the Church. By reaffirming their baptismal vows and publicly professing their faith, young Catholics commit themselves to a life of discipleship and service within the Christian community. Confirmation strengthens their bond with the Church, inviting them to actively engage in worship, prayer, and works of charity, and to bear witness to the Gospel in their daily lives. Through Confirmation, young Catholics are commissioned as ambassadors of Christ, called to share the Good News and make disciples of all nations.

Furthermore, Confirmation is an integral component of personal faith formation, providing young Catholics with opportunities for spiritual growth and reflection. The sacramental preparation process leading up to Confirmation offers a time of discernment and exploration, allowing candidates to deepen their understanding of Catholic teachings, values, and traditions. Through catechesis, prayer, and reflection, young Catholics are encouraged to examine their beliefs, values, and personal relationship with God, and to discern the ways in which they are called to live out their faith in the world.

Confirmation also marks the beginning of a lifelong journey of faith, in which young Catholics are invited to continue growing in their relationship with God and the Church. Beyond the sacramental celebration, Confirmation serves as a launching pad for ongoing spiritual formation and discipleship, providing young Catholics with opportunities for continued learning, prayer, and service. Through participation in youth ministry programs, retreats, and other faith formation opportunities, young Catholics can deepen their

understanding of their faith, nurture their spiritual life, and discern their vocation within the Church.

Moreover, Confirmation empowers young Catholics to embrace their role as missionary disciples, called to proclaim the Gospel and build the Kingdom of God in the world. As recipients of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, confirmed youth are empowered to bear witness to their faith through word and deed, and to share the love of Christ with others. Whether through acts of kindness, evangelization efforts, or advocacy for justice and peace, young Catholics are called to be agents of transformation in their communities, bringing hope, healing, and reconciliation to a world in need.

Modern Catholic theologians offer profound insights into the Sacrament of Confirmation, elucidating its significance as a spiritual journey for Catholic youth and emphasizing its transformative impact on their lives. One such theologian, Timothy Radcliffe, O.P., emphasizes the sacramental nature of Confirmation as an encounter with the Holy Spirit, imbuing young Catholics with the gifts necessary for their journey of faith. Radcliffe highlights the sacrament's role in deepening the spiritual bond between the individual and the Church community, fostering a sense of belonging and solidarity among believers. Moreover, Radcliffe underscores Confirmation as a call to discipleship and mission, empowering young Catholics to actively participate in the Church's mission of proclaiming the Gospel and building the Kingdom of God.

Radcliffe's perspective on Confirmation aligns closely with the themes outlined in the prompt. He views Confirmation as a sacramental encounter with the Holy Spirit, wherein young Catholics receive the gifts necessary for their journey of faith. In his book "What Is the Point of Being a Christian?" Radcliffe reflects on the sacramental nature of Confirmation, describing it as a moment of empowerment and commissioning. He writes, "In confirmation, we are anointed with oil, the symbol of God's grace, and we receive the Holy Spirit, who will guide us on our journey through life. We are strengthened and equipped for the challenges that lie ahead."

Furthermore, Radcliffe emphasizes the communal dimension of Confirmation, highlighting its role in strengthening the bond between the individual and the Church community. He believes that Confirmation is not merely an individualistic experience but a communal one, wherein young Catholics are welcomed into the wider family of the Church. Radcliffe writes, "In confirmation, we are not only strengthened individually, but we are also welcomed more deeply into the community of believers. We become members of the Body of Christ, united with one another in our shared faith and mission."

Moreover, Radcliffe sees Confirmation as a call to discipleship and mission, empowering young Catholics to live out their faith authentically and courageously. He believes that Confirmation marks the beginning of a lifelong journey of faith, wherein young Catholics are invited to deepen their relationship with God and actively participate in the life and mission of the Church. Radcliffe writes, "Confirmation is not the end of our journey but the beginning.

It is a call to discipleship and mission, inviting us to follow Christ and bear witness to his love in the world."

Radcliffe's views on Confirmation resonate with the themes outlined in the prompt, providing a compelling theological perspective on the sacrament's relevance for Catholic youth. He emphasizes Confirmation as a spiritual journey wherein young Catholics are empowered by the gifts of the Holy Spirit, strengthened in their bond with the Church community, and equipped for a life of discipleship and mission. Radcliffe's insights serve as a reminder of the profound significance of Confirmation in the lives of young Catholics and the transformative power of the sacraments in fostering their faith and spiritual growth.

In addition to Timothy Radcliffe's views, which were explored previously, other modern Catholic theologians offer valuable perspectives on the Sacrament of Confirmation, emphasizing its relevance as a spiritual journey for Catholic youth and its transformative impact on their lives. One such theologian is Scott Hahn, whose insights into Confirmation focus on its sacramental efficacy and its role in fostering a deeper relationship with God and the Church. Hahn, known for his expertise in sacramental theology, underscores Confirmation as a continuation of the grace received in baptism, wherein young Catholics are sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit and initiated into the fullness of Christian life. He emphasizes Confirmation's transformative power in strengthening the bond between the individual and the Church community, providing young Catholics with the spiritual resources necessary for their journey of faith and discipleship.

Hahn's perspective on Confirmation aligns closely with the themes outlined in the prompt, emphasizing the sacrament's efficacy in empowering young Catholics with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. In his writings, Hahn emphasizes Confirmation as a sacramental encounter with the Holy Spirit, wherein the grace of baptism is deepened and sealed. He writes, "Confirmation is the sacrament through which the Holy Spirit comes to us in a special way to confirm and strengthen us in our faith, empowering us to live as authentic witnesses of Christ in the world." Hahn views Confirmation as a transformative moment in which young Catholics receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit's gifts, equipping them for their journey of faith and discipleship.

Moreover, Hahn emphasizes Confirmation's role in strengthening the bond between the individual and the Church community, fostering a sense of belonging and solidarity among believers. He believes that Confirmation is not merely a personal experience but a communal one, wherein young Catholics are welcomed into the wider family of the Church. Hahn writes, "Through Confirmation, we are incorporated more deeply into the mystical body of Christ, united with our fellow believers in a shared faith and mission." He sees Confirmation as an opportunity for young Catholics to become active participants in the life and mission of the Church, contributing to its growth and vitality.

Furthermore, Hahn views Confirmation as a call to discipleship and mission, inviting young Catholics to live out their faith authentically and courageously. He believes that

Confirmation marks the beginning of a lifelong journey of faith, wherein young Catholics are invited to deepen their relationship with God and actively participate in the Church's mission of evangelization. Hahn writes, "Confirmation is not the end but the beginning of our journey of faith. It empowers us to go forth and bear witness to Christ in the world, sharing the Good News with others and making disciples of all nations." He sees Confirmation as a transformative moment in which young Catholics are empowered to live out their faith boldly and to be witnesses to the transformative power of the Gospel in the world.

In exploring the views of modern Catholic theologians other than Radcliffe and Scott Hahn on the Sacrament of Confirmation, it becomes evident that Confirmation holds profound relevance as a spiritual journey for Catholic youth. One such theologian, Edward Sri, offers insightful perspectives on the sacrament, emphasizing its transformative role in the lives of young Catholics. Sri sees Confirmation as more than just a ritual; it is a sacred encounter with the Holy Spirit that empowers individuals to live out their faith authentically and courageously. According to Sri, Confirmation marks the beginning of a lifelong journey of discipleship and mission, wherein young Catholics are invited to deepen their relationship with God and actively participate in the life and mission of the Church.

Sri's understanding of Confirmation aligns closely with the theme outlined in the prompt. He emphasizes the sacramental nature of Confirmation as an encounter with the Holy Spirit, wherein young Catholics receive the gifts necessary for their journey of faith. Sri writes, "Confirmation is not just a ritual; it is an encounter with the living God. Through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, participants are strengthened in their bond with the Church community and equipped for a life of discipleship and mission." This perspective underscores the transformative power of Confirmation in empowering young Catholics to embrace their identity as members of the Body of Christ and actively participate in the life and mission of the Church.

Moreover, Sri highlights the communal dimension of Confirmation, emphasizing its role in strengthening the bond between the individual and the Church community. He believes that Confirmation is a moment of initiation into the wider family of the Church, wherein young Catholics are welcomed into the community of believers. Sri writes, "In confirmation, we are not only strengthened individually, but we are also welcomed more deeply into the community of believers. We become members of the Body of Christ, united with one another in our shared faith and mission." This perspective emphasizes the importance of belonging and solidarity within the Church community, fostering a sense of unity and support among young Catholics as they embark on their spiritual journey.

Furthermore, Sri sees Confirmation as a call to discipleship and mission, empowering young Catholics to live out their faith authentically and courageously in the world. He believes that Confirmation marks the beginning of a lifelong journey of faith, wherein young Catholics are invited to deepen their relationship with God and actively participate in the life and mission of the Church. Sri writes, "Confirmation is not the end of our journey but the beginning. It is a call to discipleship and mission, inviting us to follow Christ and bear witness to his love in the

world." This perspective underscores the transformative impact of Confirmation in shaping the spiritual identity and mission of young Catholics, empowering them to be agents of change and ambassadors of Christ in the world.

Another modern Catholic theologian, Ronald Rolheiser, offers complementary insights into the Sacrament of Confirmation and its significance for Catholic youth. Rolheiser views Confirmation as a sacred moment of initiation and commissioning, wherein young Catholics are consecrated for a life of service and mission. He emphasizes the sacramental symbolism of Confirmation, particularly the anointing with chrism oil, as a sign of empowerment and consecration for mission. Rolheiser writes, "Through the anointing with chrism, participants are consecrated for a life of service and mission, empowered by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the Good News and build the Kingdom of God." This perspective highlights the transformative power of Confirmation in equipping young Catholics to embrace their vocation as missionary disciples and bear witness to the transformative power of the Gospel in the world.

Moreover, Rolheiser underscores the importance of Confirmation as a catalyst for spiritual growth and maturity, inviting young Catholics to embrace their identity as beloved children of God and active participants in the Church's mission of love and reconciliation. He believes that Confirmation marks the beginning of a lifelong journey of faith, wherein young Catholics are called to deepen their relationship with God and actively participate in the life and mission of the Church. Rolheiser writes, "Confirmation is not just a ceremony; it is a commissioning. Through the anointing with chrism, participants are consecrated for a life of service and mission, empowered by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the Good News and build the Kingdom of God." This perspective underscores the transformative impact of Confirmation in shaping the spiritual identity and mission of young Catholics, empowering them to be agents of change and ambassadors of Christ in the world.

The Sacrament of Confirmation holds profound transformative potential in the lives of young Catholics, impacting them at multiple levels: spiritually, socially, and personally. Through Confirmation, participants undergo a profound spiritual journey that strengthens their bond with the Church community, emboldens them to live out their faith authentically, and equips them for a life of discipleship and mission. This sacramental encounter serves as a sacred moment of initiation and empowerment, inviting young Catholics to deepen their relationship with God and become witnesses to the transformative power of the Gospel in the world.

Firstly, Confirmation strengthens the bond between the individual and the Church community, fostering a sense of belonging and solidarity among young Catholics. This sacrament is not merely a private act of faith but a communal celebration, wherein candidates are welcomed into the wider family of the Church. Through Confirmation, participants are initiated into the Body of Christ, becoming active members of the faith community and sharing in its rich traditions and rituals. This sense of belonging provides young Catholics with a support network of fellow believers who accompany them on their spiritual journey, offering guidance, encouragement, and fellowship along the way.

Furthermore, Confirmation empowers participants to live out their faith authentically and courageously in the world. Through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, individuals receive the gifts necessary to navigate the challenges of daily life and bear witness to the Gospel in their words and actions. These gifts, including wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord, enable young Catholics to discern God's will for their lives and respond faithfully to his call. Confirmation serves as a source of strength and inspiration, empowering participants to overcome obstacles, resist temptation, and persevere in their commitment to Christ and his Church.

Moreover, Confirmation equips young Catholics for a life of discipleship and mission, inviting them to actively participate in the life and mission of the Church. As commissioned agents of Christ, confirmed individuals are called to share the Good News and build the Kingdom of God in the world. This mission entails bearing witness to the transformative power of the Gospel through acts of charity, justice, and compassion. Confirmation empowers participants to be agents of change and reconciliation, working to bring about God's kingdom of love and mercy in their communities and beyond.

As young Catholics embark on this lifelong journey of faith, Confirmation serves as a sacred moment of initiation and empowerment. It marks the beginning of a deeper relationship with God and a commitment to follow Christ more closely in daily life. Through Confirmation, participants are invited into a deeper communion with the Holy Spirit, who dwells within them and guides them on their journey of faith. This sacramental encounter empowers young Catholics to encounter God in new and profound ways, leading to a deeper understanding of their identity as beloved children of God and disciples of Jesus Christ.

Furthermore, Confirmation serves as a source of empowerment and courage, enabling participants to embrace their faith with confidence and boldness. In a world often hostile to Christian values and beliefs, Confirmation equips young Catholics to stand firm in their convictions and bear witness to the truth of the Gospel. This courage is not born out of human strength but is infused by the Holy Spirit, who strengthens and sustains believers in times of trial and adversity. Confirmation empowers participants to be ambassadors of Christ, shining the light of his love and truth in a world darkened by sin and despair.

Moreover, Confirmation is a sacrament of initiation into the life of the Church, marking the beginning of active participation in its sacramental and communal life. Through Confirmation, participants are welcomed into the fullness of the Christian community, where they can grow in faith alongside their brothers and sisters in Christ. This sense of belonging and communion provides young Catholics with a supportive environment in which to deepen their relationship with God and discern their vocation within the Church.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the Sacrament of Confirmation represents a profound vocation for evangelizing Catholic youth in today's rapidly changing world. By embracing Confirmation not merely as a ritualistic milestone but as a transformative encounter with the Holy Spirit, the

Church can empower adolescents to become active agents of evangelization within their communities. Through targeted catechesis, pastoral care, and mentorship, Confirmation can serve as a catalyst for nurturing vibrant, resilient faith communities grounded in the timeless truths of Catholic tradition.

As further research endeavors seek to deepen our understanding of Confirmation's impact on the religious formation and evangelization of youth, it is imperative for the Church to remain attentive to the evolving needs and aspirations of young believers. By fostering a culture of encounter, dialogue, and accompaniment, the Catholic Church can fulfill its mission of proclaiming the Gospel and fostering discipleship among the next generation of faithful.

the Sacrament of Confirmation holds profound transformative potential in the lives of young Catholics. Through this sacramental encounter, participants are strengthened in their bond with the Church community, empowered to live out their faith authentically and courageously, and equipped for a life of discipleship and mission. As they embark on this lifelong journey of faith, Confirmation serves as a sacred moment of initiation and empowerment, inviting young Catholics to deepen their relationship with God and become witnesses to the transformative power of the Gospel in the world.

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