

The Rite of Confirmation

The bishop: **Do you reject Satan and all his works and all his empty promises?**

The candidates (together): **I reject.**

After the negative, now comes the positive:

The bishop: **Do you believe in God the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?**

The candidates: **I do.**

The bishop: **Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?**

The candidates: **I do.**

Then the bishop will ask you if you are really serious about the Church:

The bishop: **Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, [the Lord, the giver of life, who came upon the apostles at Pentecost and today is given to you sacramentally in Confirmation? Do you believe in] the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?**

The candidates: **I do.**

Then the bishop confirms your profession of faith:

The bishop: **This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Now follows the invitation to all present to pray together. It is a little like that first Pentecost, when the infant Church had gathered together around Mary and fervently prayed for the coming of the Holy Spirit. And as you know, moments later the tongues of fire descended upon them! So the bishop invites the whole congregation to pray together, in something like the following words:

The bishop: **My dear friends, in Baptism God our Father gave the new birth of eternal life to his chosen sons and daughters. Let us pray to our Father that he will pour out the Holy Spirit to strengthen his sons and daughters with his gifts and anoint them to be more like Christ the Son of God.**

All pray in silence for a short time. Fervently, and from their hearts. It's best if they kneel at this moment, since kneeling is a posture of especially intensive prayer.

Then the bishop extends his hands over the candidates. By this gesture the bishop draws together and gives voice to the profound prayers of all present. He expresses this in the following words:

The bishop: All-powerful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by water and the Holy Spirit you freed your sons and daughters from sin and gave them new life. Send your Holy Spirit upon them to be their Helper and Guide. Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence. Fill them with the spirit of wonder and awe in your presence. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All respond: Amen. (which means: So be it; we ask this too!)

Now follows the actual anointing. A deacon or another helper brings the chrism to the bishop.

The candidates now approach the bishop individually, accompanied by their sponsors.

The sponsor places his or her right hand on your shoulder and gives your saint's name (or your name) to the bishop. Sometimes it is the candidate himself who is asked to give this name.

the bishop dips his right thumb in the chrism, places his hand on your head and makes the Sign of the Cross with his thumb on your forehead.

The bishop addresses you by your chosen name and says:

N., be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit

You reply:

Amen.

This means something like:

Yes, so be it. I want this. I agree to this.

The bishop then says:

Peace be with you.

The candidate responds:

And with your spirit.

So now you are confirmed.

