



### **From a Bishop's Journal (706)**

#### **“Be Sealed with the Holy Spirit, the Gift of God” (5)**

**E**very year I receive more than 500 letters from young people who want to be confirmed. I read all of them and I consider them as true “professions of faith” in the Holy Spirit. They are usually filled with gratitude to their parents for getting them baptised at birth. They also mention the fruitful Confirmation preparation they have received. The following are excerpts from these letters.

#### **Open to the Holy Spirit**

To be confirmed is to choose to live the grand project of Jesus, by doing such things as saying “I love you,” by being able to apologise, by forgiving, by helping those who have problems, by hugging others, etc. It is, especially, being open and available to the Holy Spirit.

– Kim

#### **The Path of Jesus**

I want to continue following the path of Jesus, to bring his light to shine, and to continue growing in the new life I am about to receive. I also believe that being confirmed means that I must continue what I have already started, that is, loving others, sharing, forgiving, growing in God, in the Church.

– Pierre-Luc

#### **A New Heart**

I want to be confirmed to get a new heart. It is important for Christians to follow Jesus. It is a sign of friendship, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness and generosity.

– Josianne

#### **Strength and Light**

I want to be confirmed because I want to receive Jesus in my heart. I need his Spirit to help me make good decisions in life. His light will guide me throughout life. His strength will help me face many obstacles.

– Jessy

#### **With the Heart of Jesus**

When I receive the Holy Spirit I shall see life with the eyes of Jesus. Here are some of the values of

Jesus that we call the fruits of the Spirit: piety, love, courage, respect, friendship, sharing, and forgiveness. I want the Holy Spirit to guide me in using them well.

– Catherine

### **Strength and Light**

For several months now I have been preparing my Confirmation with my parents and my friends, and our catechist. Together we have prayed and reflected, and I have learned that to be confirmed is to receive the Holy Spirit and his gifts to help us in bringing peace, love and joy to the whole world. This is the mission to be accomplished, which Jesus gave us. I choose to walk with him, to be guided by him with his light and his strength. I promise to follow him and to open my heart to his actions. It is for all of these reasons that I want to be confirmed.

– Marie-Ève

### **Harvesting the Fruits of the Spirit**

I want to confirm the sacrament of Baptism that I received at birth, when I was little and my parents decided that they would raise me in the community of Jesus. I believe in the Holy Spirit, who gave me his gifts. I know that if I live my everyday life by the gifts of the Holy Spirit, living as a good Christian, I will harvest the fruits of the Spirit. I believe that being confirmed is an important decision, and I commit myself to pray with the community in the house of the Lord, where I shall learn to grow and be better.

– Jérémie

### **Sharing in the Father's Project**

To be confirmed is to receive from the Holy Spirit the light that shines on our path and the strength that sustains us in the trials of daily life. It is a sign that God invites me to be an active and responsible member of my community. The Holy Spirit I welcome today helps me take part in carrying out the Father's great project of life, and to help make the world a more just, fraternal, peaceful, happy, and loving place.

– Félix

### **Filled with His Power**

Being confirmed is receiving the Holy Spirit in my life. The Holy Spirit helps me better live all kinds of situations because, in my heart I shall be filled with his power. I will act with greater love, peace, and courage; it will be more pleasant to me and to those around me.

– Joanie

### **For the Rest of My Life**

It is important for me to be confirmed, because I want to marry. I would like to live my daily life in the practice of the gifts I received from the Holy Spirit, and by harvesting their fruit. I want to live the remainder of my life in the Christian way.

– Jessica

### **Growing in Love**

Jesus gives us his Spirit, we celebrate the Holy Spirit at the heart of our lives, the Spirit who helps

our community grow in love. We welcome the Spirit to transform and solidify our Christian life, so that we may be his witnesses in the Church and the world.

– Gabrielle

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