

### **From A Bishop's Journal (712)**

#### **“Be Sealed with the Holy Spirit, the Gift of God” (7)**

**T**he testimony of the parents of the future confirmed reminds me of the importance of a solid preparation for the sacrament. However, the parents proclaim first of all their living faith in the Holy Spirit. Let us listen as they speak.

#### **Discovering the Inspiration**

My child will be confirmed, this year. It is one of life's great moments to us, because my daughter will discover the inspiration of the Spirit, in this sacrament. She will also know about the seven gifts of the Spirit of God.

– Maria

#### **The Church's Great Adventure**

The Lord has never stopped giving me signs of his love: my family, my husband, my children, my friends, his Bread of life, his forgiveness, and his Spirit. Today he wants to show me his friendship once again by giving my daughter the desire to be confirmed. She says that she wants to be part of the Church's great adventure, and it is for this reason that she wants to receive the Spirit in her heart. As a parent, I am very proud that she has decided this, and may the Lord bless her throughout her life.

– Chantal

#### **Child of God**

For several weeks now I have been preparing my child for Confirmation. I show him the best I can what I have learned from the Catholic Church, and I think that he is proud of it. I pray for him every night because I love him with all my heart, he is my whole life. He is a terrific little man, warm, lovable, caring, and self-reliant. He is heading in the right direction, and I thank the Lord. I ask you to confirm my child because he is a child of God. He enjoys the sacramental preparation work: through this we better understand who is the Holy Spirit.

– Branda

## **Spiritual Renewal**

We would like our daughter to be confirmed. We see in her all the love she can bring in her daily life, helping others both at school and at home, even if it sometimes is inconvenient to her. She is an element of peace with her friends, even though there may be easily solved minor disagreements among them. We would like her to receive this sacrament, that she decide for herself to be part of God's great family, that she realise the benefit of her spiritual renewal, to feel that God is always present in both good and difficult times. She will also be able to have awareness that the fruits of the Holy Spirit that she has can help her in her daily life, making her life and that of those around her better, even if it is only through small acts of kindness.

– Lise and Gilles

## **A True Witness of Christ**

I want my child to be confirmed so that he will receive the power of the Holy Spirit to help him grow in the faith, to help him live the Christian life fully, and become a true witness of Christ. The qualities I appreciate in my child are: love, faith, patience, kindness, and gentleness. As I worked with my child to prepare for the sacrament, I better understood who the Holy Spirit is, and I reaffirmed my own Confirmation. I realised that the Holy Spirit is always present in our daily lives. I shall continue helping my child to stay on the right path.

– Lisa

## **A Model of Love**

The time has come for our child to fly with his own wings, supported by the breeze of the Holy Spirit. I understand that through my baptismal commitment I must further my child's faith education. Even if he must decide for himself to accept the gifts of the Spirit, I know that I must continue to be a role model to him. I want my child to receive the sacrament of Confirmation so that he may also bear fruit and help us build up the Kingdom of love, and, in this way, that he experience the joy there is in serving God and in following the promises of Christ day after day.

– Tina

## **To Better Know the Spirit**

Our son shall receive Confirmation shortly. He is very happy about it, and overflows with love and kindness. We want our child to be confirmed because he has chosen to follow the catechetics programme and, with this, he asks to be confirmed. As I journeyed with our child in his faith journey and confirmation preparation and explained to him the best I could, I, too, better understood or realised what the catechetics programme was all about, and got to better know the Holy Spirit. This Holy Spirit plays a big role in our lives as individuals, and in the family unit.

– Diane

## **Taking Another Step**

I want to add my voice to that of my daughter who is asking you to receive the sacrament of Confirmation, this year. I personally support her request because she has been able to apply to her

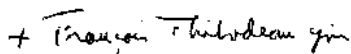
daily activities Jesus' acts of kindness. For her age, my child is very responsible, and she shows a maturity that is out of proportion with her age. Her sense of analysis and self-criticism makes her a person who challenges herself very much, and who grows day after day in her Christian faith and, generally, in her social and family values. She has a good understanding of the teachings of Jesus, and always finds ways of applying them in her relations with her friends, parents, and people she meets. I hope to be able to teach her through my example, my work, and my life to journey with the Lord Jesus. I hope that she will continue to talk to him in times of happiness as well as in times of sadness. Today she must take another step, renewing her baptismal promises freely and consciously. To this, I can vouch for her.

– Fabienne

### **Being a Witness**

We want to give our son a very nice gift by presenting him to you, in order to receive the gift of the Spirit. He has now reached the stage where he can renew by himself his baptismal commitment. With the help of his catechists and with our help, he understands what he is committing to, and he is ready to witness to the Good News. There is a lot of generosity and kindness, in him. He has a good sense of sharing, and we are convinced that the people who meet him will appreciate him. He is a remarkable young man, and we trust that he shall succeed in life according to his desires. As parents, we shall continue to guide him in love, hope, peace, and joy. For this, the presence of the Holy Spirit in his heart could strengthen this decision. We shall contribute to the faith promise he shall give you on the day of his Confirmation, by being an example to him as witnesses of Jesus. We love our son with all our heart, and this gift of Confirmation that he will receive will be very precious, since he shall then be guided by the Holy Spirit.

– Lisa and François



+François Thibodeau, C.J.M.  
Bishop of Edmundston

08-29-07