

CONFIRMATION AT CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Notes

HOMILY

The Bishop will NOT preach from the pulpit but rather from the center aisle, so be prepared, he may have a small conversation with you.

SAINT

During the Bishop's homily, he does not ask questions to the group "at large" but he does question most candidates at the time of the Chrismation about **the saint's name they chose, one of the gifts of the spirit, etc.** He strongly suggests that you pick the name of a canonized saint and do some research on them.

WORKS OF MERCY

Even though the Year of Mercy proclaimed by Pope Francis officially ended in November 2016, the knowledge and practice of the **Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy** is something anyone preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation should know. As a result, the Bishop may question the Confirmation candidates about them.

CONFIRMATION

The Bishop stands at the foot of the sanctuary and receives the Candidates for anointing. This not only emphasizes the active desire of the candidate for the sacrament, but it also makes distinct the role of the sponsor, who accompanies the candidate forward.

The Bishop imposes his hand on each candidate as he anoints them.
The sponsor places his/her right hand on the candidate's right shoulder.
The Bishop anoints the candidate on the forehead.

Bishop: "(Confirmation Name), **be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.**"
The confirmand clearly responds, "**AMEN**"
The Bishop extends a handshake of peace, saying, "**Peace be with you.**"
The newly-confirmed responds, "**AND WITH YOUR SPIRIT.**"
The newly-confirmed and sponsor return to their place.



REVIEW

SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

1. To admonish the sinner.
2. To instruct the ignorant.
3. To counsel the doubtful.
4. To comfort the sorrowful.
5. To bear wrongs patiently.
6. To forgive all injuries.
7. To pray for the living and the dead.

GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. Wisdom
2. Understanding
3. Right Judgment, or Counsel
4. Courage, or Fortitude
5. Knowledge
6. Reverence, or Piety
7. Wonder and Awe, or Fear of the Lord



CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

1. To feed the hungry.
2. To give drink to the thirsty.
3. To clothe the naked.
4. To visit the imprisoned.
5. To shelter the homeless.
6. To visit the sick.
7. To bury the dead.

THE FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. Love
2. Joy
3. Peace
4. Patience
5. Kindness
6. Goodness
7. Generosity
8. Gentleness
9. Faithfulness
10. Modesty
11. Self-control
12. Chastity

THE SPIRITUAL AND CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

The spiritual and corporal works of mercy are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities. Instructing, advising, consoling, comforting are **spiritual works of mercy**, as are forgiving and bearing wrongs patiently.

The **corporal works of mercy** consist especially in feeding the hungry sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned and burying the dead. Among all these, giving alms (money) to the poor is one of the chief witnesses to fraternal charity (brotherly love); it is also a work of justice pleasing to God.

The spiritual and corporal works of mercy seek to help alleviate human misery –

material deprivation, unjust oppression, physical and psychological illness and death. Such misery is an obvious sign of our inherited human frailty and need for salvation as a consequence of original sin. Everyone is obliged to perform the works of mercy, according to his own ability and the need of his neighbor. It is important to remember that ordinary deeds done every day to relieve the corporal or spiritual needs of others are true works of mercy, if done in the name of Christ. Taking care of children, teaching children and adults about the faith, caring for elderly parents or a sick child or spouse are some examples.

SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

1. To admonish the sinner. It is an act of love to try to make another realize how bad sin is. This might be done by trying to keep him out of sin or an occasion of sin, or by trying to get him to confession. In cases where we think it might make him worse, we do not correct him directly. We can let him know indirectly, especially by our example, that we do not approve of his actions.

2. To instruct the ignorant. It is an act of love to help others in one way or another to learn the truths they need to know to save their souls.

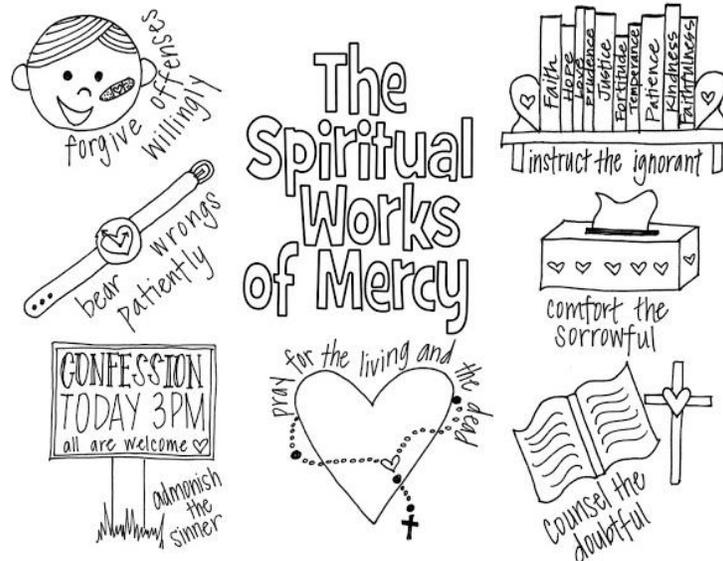
3. To counsel the doubtful. It is an act of love to help others to be certain about what they should do to love and serve God. Many souls could be saved if Catholics would make the effort to speak the truth in love to their neighbors.

4. To comfort the sorrowful. It is an act of love to help another person in any kind of sorrow, and to refrain from doing anything that would unnecessarily cause another person more sorrow.

5. To bear wrongs patiently. It is an act of love to accept the consequences of another's thoughtlessness or carelessness and to suffer inconveniences which another should bear. This is the example given to us by Jesus who suffered greatly for us all when he was innocent.

6. To forgive all injuries. It is an act of deep love to forgive all those who have injured us in any way, even deliberately and with malice. Christ demands that His followers have great love and forgiveness for one another and even for our enemies in imitation of His own forgiveness of us and of His enemies as He hung on the cross. In His almighty wisdom, God knows that failing to forgive causes further injury to the person originally injured.

7. To pray for the living and the dead. Sharing in the communion of saints demands that we pray for everyone. This is a great means of spreading the fires of love to others, whether in this world or in purgatory. Prayers for the dead at a cemetery carry special graces.



CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

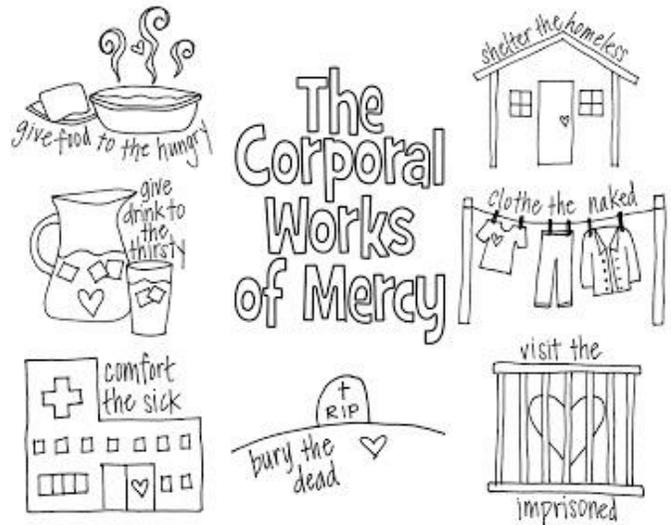
1. To feed the hungry. Everyone needs food for their body. It is an act of love to help others to obtain their bodily nourishment, especially those in greatest need. [Examples: Bringing food to the poor, donating money to buy food for the poor, sharing your food or candy, helping to shop for groceries, helping with the cooking, doing dishes, waiting on company.]

2. To give drink to the thirsty. What is said of food also applies to drink. [Examples: Giving someone a drink on a hot day, giving the baby its bottle, pouring drinks at the table, lifting up a young child to get a drink at a water fountain.]

3. To clothe the naked. Everyone needs clothing for warmth, protection, modesty and dignity. It is an act of love to help others obtain clothing, especially those who need help. [Examples: Bringing clothes to a needy family, sharing outgrown clothes with another family, bringing clothes to a clothing drive, helping a young child get dressed, helping with laundry at home.]

4. To visit the imprisoned. Those in prison and many other persons and their families suffer hindrances or dangers to freedom. Helping them, visiting them or protecting them is an act of love. [Examples: Visiting prisoners, fighting for humane treatment for the imprisoned, helping to care for the families of the imprisoned, protecting a little child from a bigger child, taking care of and protecting the baby, fighting for one's country.]

5. To shelter the homeless. Everyone needs shelter. Some people live in cardboard



homes; some people live in homes made of discarded materials; many people are homeless. To help the homeless obtain shelter or to preserve it is an act of love. [Examples: Bringing others to your home in times of fire, floods, or other disaster. Working at or supporting a homeless shelter. Helping to take care of the house, dusting the furniture, making the beds, cleaning the floor, and cutting the grass.]

6. To visit the sick. Helping sick people in any way is an act of love. [Examples: Visiting someone in the hospital or nursing home. Visiting someone who is sick at home or the elderly who are shut-ins. Running an errand for an elderly or sick person. Reading to the sick or elderly.]

7. To bury the dead. It is an act of love to show respect for the bodies of the dead, since during life, they were temples of the Holy Spirit and received the Body and Blood of Christ in Holy Communion. [Examples: Going to funerals and wakes. Treating cemeteries with respect. Cutting the grass on a grave. Putting flowers on it.]

GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

At Baptism, we receive seven special gifts from the Holy Spirit. These gifts are freely given to us to help us live as followers of Jesus and to build up the Body of Christ, the Church. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit are sealed and strengthened within us at Confirmation.

These seven gifts help us to respond to the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives, to make good choices, and to serve God and others.

1. Wisdom is the gift of knowing the right choices to make to live a holy life. The gift of wisdom helps you to avoid the things that could lead you away from God.

2. Understanding is the gift of comprehension, or the ability to grasp the meaning of the teachings of the Church. The gift of understanding helps you be tolerant and sympathetic of others. It helps you sense when someone is hurting or in need of compassion.

3. Right Judgment, or Counsel, is the gift of prudence. The gift of right judgment helps you make choices to live as a faithful follower of Jesus.

4. Courage, or Fortitude, is the gift that helps you stand up for your faith in Christ. The gift of courage helps you overcome any obstacles that would keep you from practicing your faith.

5. Knowledge is the gift of knowing and enlightenment. The gift of knowledge enables you to choose the right path that will lead you to God. It encourages you to avoid obstacles that will keep you from him.

6. Reverence, or Piety, is the gift of confidence in God. This gift of reverence

inspires you to joyfully want to serve God and others.

7. Wonder and Awe, or Fear of the Lord is the gift of wonder and respect that encourages you to be in awe of God. The gift of wonder and awe moves you to so love God that you do not want to offend him by your words or actions.

GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

WISDOM

To value the things of God

UNDERSTANDING

To grasp faith's mysteries

COUNSEL

To make wise decisions

FORTITUDE

To strengthen your will

KNOWLEDGE

To enlighten your mind

PIETY

To love and serve God

FEAR OF THE LORD

To respect God's majesty



We are living in God's grace and using the gifts that He has given us, we are able to see the fruits of the Holy Spirit come out in our lives and the lives of others

THE FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



When we cooperate with the graces and gifts we receive from the Holy Spirit, we grow as followers of Jesus. We see the effect of the Holy Spirit's presence in our lives in special qualities and attitudes that we develop as we grow in faith. The Church identifies these qualities and attitudes as the fruits of the Holy Spirit. The 12 fruits of the Holy Spirit are signs that the Holy Spirit is alive within us and helping us live the Catholic faith in our daily lives.

"Just so, every good tree bears good fruit, and a rotten tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a rotten tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. So by their fruits you will know them." (Matthew 7:17-20)

There are many fruits of the Holy Spirit. The tradition of the Church lists twelve of them:

- 1. Love:** We exhibit the virtue of charity, or love, by our unselfish devotion and care for God and our neighbor. always trying to do what we know is right.
- 2. Joy:** We live with joy when we recognize that true happiness comes, not from money or possessions, but from knowing and following Christ.
- 3. Peace:** We are freed from worrying about trivial things because of the inner peace we experience with God in our hearts. We work and pray for peace throughout the world.
- 4. Patience:** We demonstrate patience by treating others with thoughtfulness and tolerance. We know that we can overcome the temptations and sufferings of life because God is always with us.
- 5. Kindness:** We live the virtue of kindness by treating others as we want to be treated.
- 6. Goodness:** We exhibit goodness when we honor God by avoiding sin and
- 7. Generosity:** We demonstrate the fruit of generosity when we share our gifts and possessions with others.
- 8. Gentleness:** Gentle people act calmly and avoid actions that might lead others to anger or resentment.
- 9. Faithfulness:** We are faithful when we live out our commitment to the teachings of Jesus, the Scriptures, and the Catholic Church.
- 10. Modesty:** We exhibit modesty by being pure in our thoughts, words, and dress.
- 11. Self-control:** We exercise self-control by working to overcome the temptations we face and by trying always to do God's will.
- 12. Chastity:** We live the virtue of chastity when we use the gift of sexuality wisely, according to God's plan.

When we are experiencing these fruits in our lives, we begin to understand more fully the gift of the Holy Spirit.

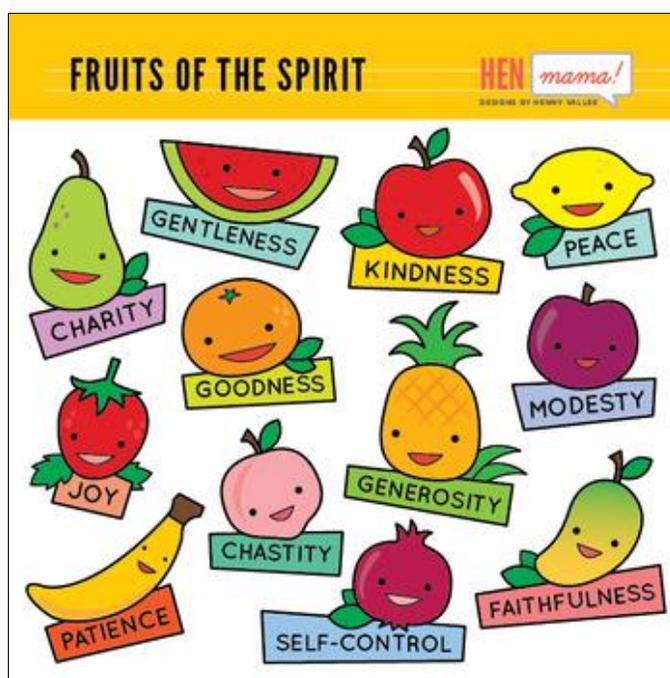
THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FRUITS AND GIFTS

Gifts are freely given; fruits are the result of a process.

The gifts, in the words of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, are “permanent dispositions which make man docile in following the promptings of the Holy Spirit” (CCC 1830).

They are received in the soul along with sanctifying grace and remain in us as permanent dispositions to help us follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit. We lose them only when we lose the state of grace through mortal sin.

The fruits, on the other hand, are the effects in us of living a life according to the spirit, according to the will of God, a life of holiness. The Catechism describes them as “perfections that the Holy Spirit forms in us as the first fruits of eternal glory” (CCC 1832).



TEN BASIC TRUTHS ABOUT GIFTS

Only believers have spiritual gifts 1 Corinthians 12:3-4

Every Christian has at least one gift. 1 Peter 4:10

Gifts are for the common good. 1 Corinthians 12:7

The Holy Spirit decides what gifts I get. 1 Corinthians 12:11

Each gift is important in the body. 1 Corinthians 12:21-23

No one receives all the gifts. 1 Corinthians 12:28

No single gift is given to everyone. 1 Corinthians 12:29

Lack of love renders a gift ineffective. 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

We must faithfully use it. 1 Timothy 4:14 , 1 Corinthians 4:2

Using my gift will cause me and the church to grow. Ephesians 4:16

HOW DO I IDENTIFY MY GIFTS?

Explore

Experiment, volunteer and serve. Try doing different things and see where the Holy Spirit will bless your work. He will confirm it through other people.

Examine Your Heart. Which one do you enjoy doing most?

Join a Youth Ministry Group. Get involved in the parish.



SYMBOLS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

In our liturgical prayers and art, we use several symbols to represent the Holy Spirit, all of them with biblical backgrounds.

The **fire** that appeared on Pentecost was reminiscent of the fire in the burning bush on Mount Sinai from which God spoke to Moses.

Fire calls attention to the strength and force of the Holy Spirit.

The **wind** that appeared on Pentecost was reminiscent of the wind that blew over the waters at the beginning of Creation.

The **wind** calls attention to the Holy Spirit breathing life into the Church.

Water represents the cleansing and life-giving action of the Holy Spirit at Baptism.

The **cloud** is used as a symbol of the Holy Spirit because clouds provide life-giving **water**.

Anointing with **oil** is a symbol of the Holy Spirit's uniting us with Jesus, the Messiah, the Anointed One.

Official documents carry a **seal** on them, so the seal is a symbol of the permanent effect of the Holy Spirit on the lives of those who are filled with the Spirit.

