
The Sacrament of Confirmation.

For the first time in several years the Sacrament of Confirmation will be administered at the University at nine o'clock next Saturday morning. Students who have not been confirmed should come to the Sorin Hall chapel this afternoon at five o'clock for an instruction of the Sacrament.

The first persons to receive this Sacrament were the Blessed Virgin and the twelve Apostles (including Matthias, who had been elected to take the place of Judas, the traitor). To them it was administered in miraculous form. In obedience to the command given by Our Lord on His Ascension into heaven, they remained in prayer in the oratory for nine days (the first Novena). On the tenth day the Holy Ghost came, in the sound of a mighty wind, and in the form of fiery tongues, which rested upon the heads of those present.

The gift of tongues, the first miraculous effect noticed, permitted the Apostles to preach to the people of different languages, and each understood in his own tongue. The Acts of the Apostles mentions a dozen different nationalities as present on this occasion. The next very noticeable gift was that of Fortitude, or spiritual courage. The twelve men who went forth boldly to preach and to die for the Faith, were the same men who had hid in fear and trembling during the Passions, only one of their number having the boldness to stand at the foot of the cross.

With these two gifts came many others, both ordinary and miraculous. The miraculous gifts of prophecy, healing, and languages, were sometimes imparted to converts when they were confirmed by the Apostles; but the purpose of the Sacrament was the conferring of ordinary, not extraordinary gifts. These ordinary gifts are :

1. Wisdom, or the power of choosing the best means to the end sought;
2. Understanding, or the ability to see through a proposition, to see whither it tends and what it means in the eyes of God;
3. Counsel, or the ability to heed and to impart spiritual advice;
4. Fortitude, or spiritual courage, which reaches its high point in martyrdom;
5. Knowledge, or the development of the intellect in its search for God and its own needs;
6. Piety, or filial love;
7. The Fear of the Lord, not the servile fear of punishment, but the filial fear of offending so good a God.

These gifts are sought and obtained in earnest prayer and through the Sacrament of Confirmation. A Catholic is bound under pain of mortal sin to receive this Sacrament if he can do so.

Prayers.

One alumnus asks prayers for his brother, who is very sick, Another alumnus asks prayers for a special intention. Two students have special intentions to recommend. Three students ask prayers for deceased relatives.