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BULLETIN

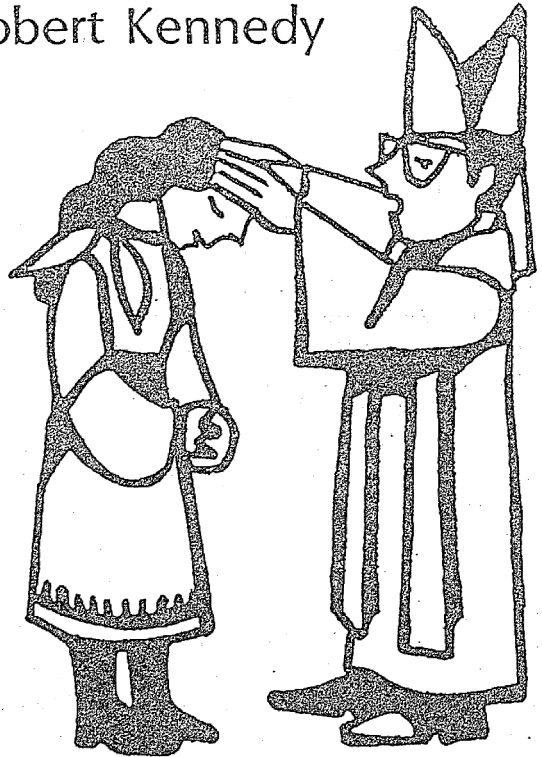
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Office of University Ministry
University of Notre Dame

CONFIRMATION

Rev. Robert Kennedy

Lynn's enthusiasm, Andre's questions, Pat's commitment, Kathy's gentleness, Jim's humor and Kris' struggles — what do all of these have in common? They were essential ingredients in last year's program and celebration of Confirmation at Notre Dame. They were basic elements of the faith-growth of twenty men and women who sought the strengthening gifts of the Holy Spirit as they renewed their commitment to life in Christ through life in the Church. Such elements are basic to any Christian's growth in faith.

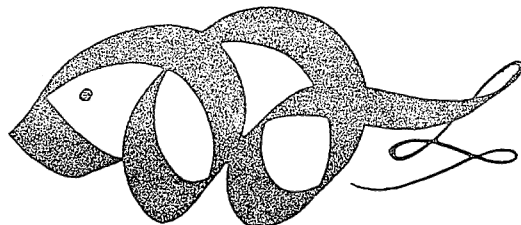


CONFIRMATION

At first glance, this may seem a very humanistic interpretation of Confirmation. But it must be kept in mind that the celebration of any sacrament is the meeting of the human and the divine, the place where all our human pain and joy, struggles and hopes, are transformed by God's gracious presence in Christ and are given a new and truer meaning. We offer the totality of our lives in grateful response to the God who loved us first, and are embraced in abundant measure by that incredible love.

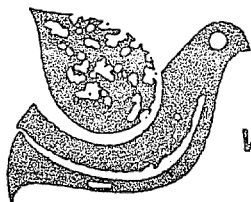
How does Confirmation fit into this understanding of sacrament? The answer is hotly debated among theologians, liturgists and religious educators today, and it seems that, depending on the age and circumstances of the candidates, this sacrament can take on various shades of meaning. But at the heart of Confirmation is the sealing of baptismal faith with the rich gifts of the Holy Spirit: that is, Confirmation is an integral part of the process which incorporates us into the death and resurrection of Christ and into the community of his believers. Empowered by the life of the risen Christ and the gifts of his Holy Spirit, and nourished by his body and blood, we go forth to bring good news to a weary and broken world and to serve its many needs.

This sense of Christian mission is especially strong when Confirmation is celebrated in the context of a university. Its environment of learning and growth make one's time at Notre Dame a time of questioning, a time to search out new meanings for one's own life, and to decide the directions one wants to move in. Those meanings and directions are sought not only in courses of study, career choices and relationships, but also in faith and the practice of religion.



Thus enthusiasm, questions and doubts, commitments and struggles, gentleness and humor -- and other things besides -- become the elements one brings gratefully to God in Confirmation, in order that they might be transformed for us into the gifts of renewed faith in God and renewed service to our brothers and sisters wherever we meet them. All that is most basic to our good human selves joins with the grace of God so that we might be the presence of a loving, merciful Christ in the world.

As 33 members of our Notre Dame community step forward next Sunday, April 27 to celebrate Confirmation, let us pray that the gifts of the Holy Spirit will be renewed in them and in us, so that we will be faithful to God's love. Let us pray that they and we will be given "the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence, and the spirit of wonder and awe" in God's presence.



**LORD, FILL ME
WITH YOUR SPIRIT OF**

WISDOM

to learn from my mistakes,
to grow in self-confidence
and still be open to Your Word

UNDERSTANDING

to see all things
in the light of your love

RIGHT JUDGMENT COUNSEL

to choose good friends
and know how to be one

COURAGE

to be unafraid of growing
and becoming the best I can

KNOWLEDGE

to be open to the truth
and willing to search for it

REVERENCE

to express my love and need
of You in my daily thoughts

WONDER AND AWE FEAR OF THE LORD

to keep alive your awesome,
gentle presence in my life

Gifts of the Spirit

Confirmed April 27

Elizabeth Ballard
Rob Bartolo
Robb Bennett
John Dougherty
Brad Drawer
David Ermine
Maraya Goyer
Becky Gunderman
Marcy Hambridge
Tim Hanlon
Bill Herman
Juan Jones
Frank Lorch
John Manier
Kellie O'Brien
Sheri Richards
David Robbins
Mike Roberts
Lauren Romeo
Katie Scanlon
Krista Starr
Chris Stent
Greg Stranger
Tim Thomas
Mark Torres
Susan Arelt
Diego Bellalta
Felipe Bellalta
Matt Davis
Jim Giolitto
Anne Redden
Mike Redden
Geneva Tracy

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation is a statement of Faith in my choice in wishing to remain a Christian and a Catholic. I am in college, away from home and it is I who made the first move to ask to be confirmed.

Marcy Hambridge
Freshman, PE

Deciding to get confirmed has made me look seriously at where I am in terms of my relationship with God.

Becky Gunderman
Sophomore, Lewis

Confirmation has played a very important role during this time in my life as a student at Notre Dame. It has caused me to examine my faith and my life as a Christian and make an evaluation of these.

Juan Jones
Senior, Keenan

The confirmation classes have allowed me to learn more about my faith and to discover what being a Catholic and Christian really means. Being confirmed in my faith is very important to me because I am making a true commitment to God.

Sheri Richards
Senior, PW