

**Introductions:**

- Name
- Age
- Your family = parents are from?, # siblings/where you fall in line up

**TELL US:**

- **Something that comes easy/you're good at**
- **Something you love doing**
- **Something you work hard at**
- **Your favorite place to be**
- **Someone in your life that has greatly influenced your spiritual life**
- **Your favorite book or movie**

**Is God real?****DEFINITION: Confirmation**

- The action of confirming something or the state of being confirmed.
- The rite at which a baptized person, especially one baptized as an infant, affirms Christian belief and is admitted as a full member of the Church

**Why?**

- Perfects the grace received at Baptism
- God's self-guiding love through the gift of Holy Spirit, our Advocate/guide
- Helps us to share our faith = what we say and do
- Calls us to Mission = to us our gifts for building God's kingdom
- deepens our friendship with Christ/Mystical Body

**SACRAMENT: An act of Christ through his Church that marks key moments in life**

- CONVERSION (Baptism)
- GROWTH & STRENGTHENING (Confirmation)
- NOURISHMENT (Eucharist)
- FORGIVENESS (Reconciliation)
- HEALING (Anointing of the Sick)
- VOCATION & COMMITMENT (Marriage/Holy Orders)

**Who can be confirmed?**

Anyone who has been baptized, reached the age of reason (7yrs), and been properly instructed, has never been confirmed, in a state of grace, and freely desires to receive the sacrament.

**Who administers the sacrament?**

- The bishop - connection to Pentecost & outpouring of Holy Spirit
- A priest - common at Easter Vigil

**Do other churches confirm its members?**

- Anglican (Church of England), Lutheran, Methodist and even to an extent the Jewish churches confirm/bestows full membership in a local congregation upon the recipient.
- In the Roman Catholic Church, Confirmation "renders the bond with the Church more perfect", because, while a baptized person is already a member, "reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace".

- Communal sacraments = received and lived, in Catholic Church

### **Scriptural Foundation:**

- In the Gospel of John, Chapter 14, Christ speaks of the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles (John 14:15–26). Later, after his Resurrection, Jesus breathed upon them and they received the Holy Spirit (John 20:22), a process completed on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1–4). After this point, the New Testament records the apostles bestowing the Holy Spirit upon others through the laying on of hands.
- In Acts of the Apostles 8:14–17: When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent them Peter and John, who went down and prayed for them, that they might receive the holy Spirit, for it had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them and they received the holy Spirit.
- The Catechism of the Catholic Church in its paragraphs 1302–1303 states:
  - It is evident from its celebration that the effect of the sacrament of Confirmation is the special outpouring of the Holy Spirit as once granted to the apostles on the day of Pentecost.
  - From this fact, Confirmation brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace:
    - it roots us more deeply in the divine filiation which makes us cry, "Abba! Father!" (Romans 8:15);
    - it unites us more firmly to Christ;
    - it increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us;
    - it renders our bond with the Church more perfect;
    - it gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross:
  - Recall then that you have received the PERMANENT spiritual seal:
    1. wisdom
    2. understanding
    3. right judgment
    4. courage
    5. knowledge
    6. reverence
    7. holy fear in God's presence.

*Guard what you have received. God the Father has marked you with his sign; Christ the Lord has confirmed you and has placed his pledge, the Spirit, in your hearts.*

- Growth is vital to human life; the body and mind must grow to stay alive.
- Catholics believe that the soul also needs to grow to maturity in the life of grace, just as the human body must grow through childhood, adolescence, and adulthood.
- It builds on what was begun in Baptism and what was nourished in Holy Eucharist. It completes the process of initiation into the Christian community, and it matures the soul for the work ahead.

**Analogy: Marathon training ~ Confirmation**

- You need to know what you believe....our job is not to change your beliefs, but through discussion help empower you to know your faith.

**SHELLY's TRAINING PLAN: What can you do to prepare?**

*\*Discipleship is a way of life characterized by love, compassion, and forgiveness*

1. STAY THE COURSE: Come to class/youth group
2. STAY CLOSE TO GOD: **PRAY** 'Come Holy Spirit, Come.'  
Ask God to open your mind, heart, and work through your actions
2. LISTEN TO GOD: Examine your conscience: RECONCILIATION ID your weaknesses, talk out your conflicts/confusions to heal from your sinfulness
3. STAY CLOSE TO GOD: Commit to attending MASS
4. SERVE those in need
5. SHARE your time, talent, and treasure

**PATRON SAINT**

- Gift of Knowledge = St Josephine Bakhita (1869-1947)

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