



Confirmation

Below is only a brief outline of the sacrament along with the Catholic particularity of each sacrament. The recontextualisation of each sacrament is explored and explained in the "Sacraments Tile" on the Awakenings website.

The Sacrament of Confirmation is the sacrament of growth. It is the second step of Christian initiation which is meant to provide guidance in growth towards a mature Christian faith^[i]. It is very important that Confirmation is seen as a sacrament and not just as a rite of passage. Consequently, the connection between Baptism and Confirmation must always be maintained. In Baptism, the child was named for God and the human community, giving him/her a unique identity. In the celebration of Confirmation, the individual's baptism is confirmed along with the individual's status within the community^[ii].

As the sacrament of growth, Confirmation affirms the growth in Christian life through the renewed gift of the Holy Spirit and through a closer connection to the Church community. Confirmation renews the gift of the Spirit, given in love through God's graciousness, when the individual was baptised. As the child increases in age and develops into adulthood, the sacrament assists the developing child to a) grow in maturity in his/her faith and b) increase his/her participation in the Church community.

- Confirmation is not just a coming of age ceremony but it is also a sacrament *of growth in faith and participation within the Church community.*
- Confirmation is not just about being initiated as a member of a group but it is also about *sharing in the life, faith and values of the faith community.*
- Confirmation is not just about knowledge and skills for adulthood but it is also about *continuing to develop one's knowledge of the faith to be an authentic witness in the world.*
- Confirmation is not just about proving one's worthiness to be accepted as an adult in the community but it is also *having one's status within the Church community confirmed.*
- Confirmation is not just about taking on new roles within a group but it is also about *being transformed into a new creation by participating in divine love.*

[i] Lambert J. Leijssen, *With the Silent Glimmer of God's Spirit: A Postmodern Look at the Sacraments*, trans. Marie Baird (Mahwah, New Jersey: Paulist Press, 2007), 51.

[ii] Leijssen, *With a Silent Glimmer of God's Spirit*, 53.