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## COME, HOLY SPIRIT

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As I have done previously, I would like to share with you excerpts from a few letters I received from young people asking for the sacrament of Confirmation. I believe that these statements are remarkable professions of faith.

### PRAYER AND REFLECTION

*For several weeks now I have been preparing my confirmation with my parents, friends, and our catechist. We have prayed and reflected together and I have come to understand that being confirmed means to carry on the love and friendship of Jesus by telling him that I want to be a true witness. I understand better the gifts that I'll be receiving: wisdom, intelligence, counsel, knowledge, filial love, worship and praise. I have also learned that respect, peace, sharing, helping one another, and love are fruits of the Spirit, and that these fruits are wonderful things we have in our daily lives. The fruits of the Spirit help us be and recognize true witnesses of Jesus.*

### GOOD DECISIONS

Each year close to eight hundred grade-school children write to me asking to be confirmed. Here is one of these letters: *I want to be confirmed because I want to continue to belong to the family of God. I want to be able to take good decisions to help me live as a Christian. I want to be able to pray to the Lord, to celebrate and to give him thanks. At Confirmation I receive the love of Jesus, joy, peace, patience, goodness, gentleness, and faith. I want to learn to love better and also to share in joy. Confirmation is an important event that gives new meaning to our lives.*

### WELCOMING THE SPIRIT

The letters I get every year from our youth asking for Confirmation are really terrific. Guided by their parents, teachers and pastors, they take an important step in Christian initiation. *I am writing to tell you that I have decided to receive Confirmation. After having talked about it with my parents, this day is going to be a happy one, for me. This sacrament will strengthen my sacrament of Baptism that was requested by my parents, and it is going to confirm that I am a member of the great Christian family and that I am ready to welcome the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will guide me throughout my life.*

### GOOD IDEAS

While the young Anglophones receive Confirmation for the most part in grades nine or ten, the young Francophones make theirs in grade six. *I am really anxious to be confirmed because I know that I am going to receive the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is there to enlighten me in my work at school and at home. The Holy Spirit gives me good ideas to do nice things in daily life, like helping others, saying I love them, sharing with others, and many other things. The Holy Spirit is really like a light.*

## A SPIRIT OF STRENGTH

Young people preparing for Confirmation learn about the importance of the Holy Spirit in daily life. Last year, a young person asked for Confirmation in order to be able to live with a newly-diagnosed leukaemia, and another, to better support a heart-and-lung transplant. Others discover the extraordinary strength from above only gradually as one that supports us in difficult times such as an illness, a death, or a separation. *I learned that being confirmed means to take another step in life with Jesus, and to do this every day. It's a spectacular thing to take another step in the Kingdom of God the Father. I am in a hurry to be confirmed because the Holy Spirit gives me his gifts to help me produce all kinds of good fruit.* And another adds, *To be confirmed means that Jesus gives me a new mission, which is to do good around me and to announce the Good News. Confirmation is another door opening to me.*


## QUITE AN EVENT

And here are excerpts from letters I received in the last few days: *I have decided to be confirmed; it invites my freedom as a child of God. If I open my heart to welcome the gifts of the Spirit, I am going to be transformed: I shall produce good fruits. Here are some examples of the gifts of the Holy Spirit can help me produce the fruits of the Spirit: The gift of counsel helps me choose to forgive rather than to choose revenge. The gift of filial worship and praise inspires me to thank God for His goodness. I believe that a sacrament is an event that gives new meaning to my life.*

## GUIDE US ALONG THE PATHS OF LIFE

I would like to make mine the following prayer that some young people made, recently: *Holy Spirit, keep in us the youthful strength of our Baptism so that our hearts may be faithful to the grace of being children of God. Guide us along the paths of life. Holy Spirit in whom we have been confirmed, make us strong in our daily struggles, have us bear the Good News of the Risen Christ. Holy Spirit, keep us united to the Body of Christ, strengthen us in his Eucharist, and make us a living offering to the glory of the Father. We go along the road announcing your Word of light to our brothers and sisters. O Lord, give us your hand.*

Have a good week, and a Holy Pentecost!



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