



### **From A Bishop's Journal (707)**

#### **“Be Sealed with the Holy Spirit, the Gift of God” (6)**

**J**ust before Confirmation the children write me a letter inviting me to visit them, for the event. Here, then, are a few excerpts from some of their letters, and also from their parents.

##### **Like Jesus**

I want to be confirmed to receive the Spirit of Jesus in my heart, and to live in his love and in the faith. I want to be confirmed to receive the seven gifts of the Spirit so as to be able to live and love like Jesus, to put more love in my family, and to make more room for the Lord in my life.

– Joey

##### **Responsible for a Better World**

God tells me that I am always His beloved child. I grow in the new life I have received and I become a being “contagious” with God’s love. I am sent to bring the light of Jesus and make it shine. With the Church community, I become an active and responsible member for a better and more fraternal world. The Holy Spirit I welcome helps me carry out the mission that Jesus has given us. I would say that this mission is to understand the Word of God in order to live it better, and to proclaim our attachment to Jesus Christ. It is to believe in and trust God the Father, in Jesus, in the Holy Spirit, and in the Church, the great family of God’s children, living among the marvels of eternity. It is to accept the gift of the Spirit, and to let myself be marked by it. It is also to have a new meaning in life, to be united to Jesus and to the community of believers.

– Marie-Hélène

##### **Unique Importance**

The Spirit of Confirmation is the Spirit of the Seven Gifts. He is given to us to help us grow in the Christian life. Each one of the gifts is uniquely important. It is thanks to the Spirit that I can develop and carry always further my search for God, enlighten my life with the Word of God, choose to forgive rather than seek revenge, face the obstacles on my path, discover the meaning of death, live my daily life in a trusting and joyful relationship with God, and develop a taste for prayer. I want to become involved in the Church and the Christian community. It is important for me to continue proclaiming the Good News to the poor. I shall continue talking about Jesus Christ, in my daily life, by being “pushed” by the Holy Spirit.

– Andrew

## **Opening My Heart**

Being confirmed is accepting the gift of God that is the Holy Spirit. I understand better the words of Jesus and the role of the Holy Spirit in my life. I want to accept the gifts of the Spirit. I want to open my heart to the action of the Spirit, to bear the fruits of love, joy, peace, kindness, etc. Yes, the Holy Spirit can help me get involved in the Church, and help me continue to proclaim Jesus Christ.

– Gabriel-Ange

## **Performing Acts**

I want to get involved in the Church and the Christian community by doing acts of love, joy, and service. It is very important for me to continue proclaiming Jesus Christ, and I shall continue to talk about him when I am older. The Holy Spirit will help me by giving me strength and power, peace and love.

– Vanessa

## **Light of the World**

I want to receive the sacrament of Confirmation because Jesus is the light of the world, and as I follow in the faith of my Church and respond to his love in my heart, I receive the light of life. “Lord, through your Holy Spirit, help me discover the world with the eyes of your love.”

– Guillaume

## **Testimonies of Parents**

Besides the letters from the future confirmed, for several years now I have been getting letters from some of the parents who bring their children to me for Confirmation, and support them in their decision to request it. It is wonderful to realise the esteem and love that parents have for their children. It is terrific to hear them say how much the preparation for Confirmation has helped them discover the riches of their own Confirmation, and better understand and appreciate the Holy Spirit.

## **Continue the Journey**

We are very happy and proud that our daughter has chosen from among all possible paths, the path of God. We are filled with joy at the realisation that she has decided to pursue the journey we had begun with her at Baptism. As parents, let us try to give the best to our children, so that they be ready and prepared to confront all of life’s situations. We firmly believe that this is the best path to take.

– Rachel and Jean-Louis

## **An Active and Responsible Member**

In a few weeks we shall be having our child’s Confirmation. The qualities we appreciate in our daughter are the capacity to forgive those who hurt her, and she loves to help the sick or those who have problems doing certain things by themselves. We want our child to be confirmed so that she may be an active and responsible member of a more just and fraternal world, and that the Holy Spirit help her build up the house that Jesus has given us. In journeying with our child, we have better understood who the Spirit is, as well as his different gifts. We better understand his role in our lives, and how he acts in us.

– Renald and Guylaine

## **Continuing His Journey**

Our child is exceptional, he is very respectful, kind, and in tune with what happens around him. He is generous, and has a good sense of humour. He helps me a lot at home, he looks after his little 3-

year-old sister while Mother studies. He does this besides other household chores. I want my child to be confirmed so that he may continue on his Christian journey. My son says his prayers every night, and prays for everyone. What impresses me even more is that he always does this on his knees. An act of humility, you might say. There is such wisdom, in this young man! I really enjoyed journeying with him, the sacramental preparation has taught me a lot about my religion, and I am grateful.

– Diane

Dear Parents and Children, you have helped me rediscover the greatness of Confirmation, and I thank you!

*+ François Thibodeau*

+ François Thibodeau, C.J.M.  
Bishop of Edmundston

07-25-07