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# CONFIRMATION

By Rt Rev. G. P. Dwyer D.D.  
Bishop of Leeds





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## CONFIRMATION

### DISCIPLE OF OUR LORD

EVERY time God gives us a grace it is to help us to know Him, love Him and serve Him better or in a new way. When we are baptized we come to life again in a new way. We are "born again of water and the Holy Ghost" as children of God. We get the help we need to save our souls. But God wants to help us to save not only our own souls but the souls of others. He wants us to take our full part in the spreading of the Faith. He wants us to take our share of the work which is done in His Holy Catholic Church. It is to help us to do this that Our Blessed Lord made the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Our Lord's chief helpers were the Apostles. Their work is done now by their successors the bishops and by the priests. The Sacrament of Holy Order is God's way of making bishops and priests.

But Our Lord had other helpers whom he called his disciples. They were not priests but they helped Our Lord to spread the Faith. Now Our Lord wants all the members of His Church, men and women, to be his disciples. The Sacrament of Confirmation gives us the grace to be disciples of Our Lord.

### SOLDIER OF CHRIST

Another way of putting it is to say that Confirmation makes us a soldier of Jesus Christ. It is a soldier's duty to defend his country ; to fight against its enemies. But a soldier doesn't only fight. In fact fighting usually is

only a small part of his life. Soldiers build roads in parts of the world where no roads have been built. They set up camps which afterwards become cities. (All the cities in England whose names end in "chester" started from camps of Roman soldiers. The Roman word "castra" means a camp and that became "chester"). Sometimes the soldiers are the only ones who have a hospital and they help all the sick people whether they are soldiers or not. And then when it comes to fighting against the enemy, a soldier is ready to defend his country even to die for it.

When you are confirmed you become a soldier of Jesus Christ and so you are ready to fight against the enemies of God and of your soul ; against the devil who tries to draw us into sin ; against the world, which means the temptations and wrong ideas and suggestions of those who do not believe in God ; and against the flesh, which means all the temptations and the inclination to do wrong that we find in ourselves.

Like the soldiers of the Queen we don't only have to fight. We have to build roads to help other people to come to know, love and serve God. We have to help to save souls and spread the Faith by building spiritual roads so to speak. We have to build up the city of God which is His Church.

### HOW TO BE A DISCIPLE

How ? First of all by example. You must remember that when people know you are a Catholic they expect you to live up to your Faith. If they see you honest, unselfish, clean in thought, word and deed ready to help others, devoted to your Church and regular at your Mass, they will respect you. What is more, they will think "if that's what it's like to be a Catholic then I'd like to be a Catholic myself."

You can spread the Faith by your prayer. When we pray in the Our Father "Thy kingdom come" we are praying that more and more people will learn to know, love and serve God.

You can spread the Faith by explaining it whenever you get a chance to do so if people ask you questions about the Catholic Faith.

It may be necessary to defend the Faith. You may have to speak out boldly and say you're a Catholic even if this means you are going to suffer. You know how the martyrs died for Our Lord. St Stephen, the first martyr, was put to death because he would not deny Our Lord. St Thomas More, St John Fisher, Blessed Margaret Clitherow and the other English Martyrs were put to death because they refused to deny the Catholic Faith. The word "martyr" means a witness. Our Lord said to His Apostles : "You shall receive the power of the Holy Ghost coming upon you and you shall be witnesses unto Me . . . even to the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1 : 8).

Now in the Sacrament of Confirmation we get God's grace, that is, the power and help to do all these things. To help the Church, to spread the Faith, to defend the Faith, to die for it if necessary. And we can do all these things because the Sacrament of Confirmation helps us to know, love and serve God in a much deeper and more grown-up way.

### THE GRACE OF THE SACRAMENT

Confirmation is a Sacrament. It is an outward sign of inward grace ordained (that is, made) by Jesus Christ.

The Son of God became Man to save us from sin and death and to show us the way to heaven. When He was on earth He taught us and helped us by means of His human nature. He could have gone all over the

world Himself and lived for ever on the earth speaking to every single person. Instead He decided to make a Church and to give His Apostles and their successors the means of helping us. They do this by the Sacraments.

When we receive any Sacrament it is Our Lord who gives us the grace. But He is using the bishop, the priest or whoever gives us the Sacrament, to pass on the grace. When He was on earth He gave grace with His own hands, words and actions. Now He uses the hands, words and actions of the bishop, the priest or people as though they were His own. (That is why the whole Church is sometimes called the *Mystical Body of Christ* and all the Catholics are called the *members* of His Mystical Body just as a hand is a member of *your* body.)

What is this special grace that Confirmation gives us? It is the grace to know, love and serve God as a disciple. That's what the catechism means when it says a "perfect" Christian. "Perfect" doesn't mean we are saints. It means we are complete. We have all we need to make us not only children of God but disciples of Our Lord. Confirmation gives us the grace to be strong and perfect Christians and soldiers of Jesus Christ.

### THE COMING OF THE HOLY GHOST

How does Our Lord give us this grace? He gives it us by sending the Holy Ghost into our souls. He promised to do this many times when He was with His Apostles. For instance, at the Last Supper He said: "If you have any love for Me you must keep the Commandments which I give you. And then I will ask the Father and He will give you another to befriend you, one who is to dwell continually with you for ever. It is the truth-giving Spirit for whom the world can find no room, because it cannot see Him, cannot recognise

Him. But you are to recognise Him: He will be continually at your side, nay, He will be in you" (John 14:15-17).

Then again after His Resurrection He told the Apostles: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and you will receive strength from Him; you are to be my witnesses in Jerusalem and throughout Judaea, in Samaria, yes, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

It was on the first Whit Sunday that Our Lord did what He had promised: "When the day of Pentecost came round, while they were all gathered together in unity of purpose, all at once a sound came from heaven like that of a strong wind blowing, and filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then appeared to them what seemed to be tongues of fire, which parted and came to rest on each of them; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak in strange languages, as the Spirit gave utterance to each" (Acts 2:1-4).

What a difference it made to the Apostles. Up to then they had been frightened, hiding themselves away, just meeting together in a house. When they received the Holy Ghost they went out into the streets and began preaching boldly and teaching the people. Three thousand people were converted that very day. You can read it all in the same chapter of the Acts of the Apostles.

You remember how the Apostles ran away when Our Lord was arrested and how St Peter even denied Our Lord. But after the first Whit Sunday when St Peter and the Apostles were arrested and brought before the High Priest they spoke up boldly and proclaimed their Faith. And when they were scourged and sent out "they left the presence of the Council rejoicing that they had been found worthy to suffer indignity for the sake of Jesus' name" (Acts 5:41).

When the Holy Ghost is given to us the hardest things become delightful to do because we are doing them for the love of God. We are given confidence and delight in our Faith.

### THE CHARACTER

What happens in our soul is this. We receive the Holy Ghost the Spirit of truth and love.

The Holy Ghost is especially the Spirit of Love. God the Father and God the Son love one another with a love that has no limits. This love is not just a feeling as it is in human beings. The love of Father and Son in the Blessed Trinity is a Third Person equal with the Father and the Son and still within the One God. The third person of the Blessed Trinity is the Holy Ghost. This, of course, is a great mystery which we cannot understand and we only know because God has told us. The thing to remember is that the Holy Spirit is perfect love. When He comes into our soul He makes it more like to God so that God loves us more and we love Him more.

Of course we receive the Holy Spirit in Baptism too. But in Confirmation He makes stronger the gifts He had given us in Baptism and He prints a new character on our souls.

A *Character* is a change in our soul which makes it more like Christ Our Lord who is the very image of God the Father.

The word "character" comes into our language from Latin. The Roman soldier had a mark called a character stamped on his shoulder and that meant that he was to be a soldier for life with the duty of defending his country. It also meant that he had the right to receive all the help and weapons he needed to defend his country and all that he needed to live even when he was too old to fight.

Now the character we receive in Confirmation is a spiritual thing. You can't make a mark on a soul. But the Holy Spirit can make our soul more like to Christ. Once we are confirmed and we have the character it means that we are to be for ever a champion of the Faith. We are to stand up for God and His truth. We can never lose this character. Just as once you are grown-up you are grown-up for good, so when you are grown-up spiritually you are grown-up for good. And just as the Roman soldier with the character mark on his shoulder had the right to all he needed to be a good soldier, so the character we receive in Confirmation gives us the right to receive from God all we need to be His champion.

So the Holy Spirit first of all increases our Faith to help us to believe more firmly in God : He increases our Hope to give us confidence and trust in God : above all He increases our Charity to help us to love God and our neighbour more and more.

### THE SEVEN GIFTS

Then the Holy Ghost increases the seven gifts which He gave us at Baptism.

*Knowledge*, to help us to see how all the things in the world were made by God and how all things give glory to God. If you think of anything at all, a tree, a pencil, a house, and then start asking yourself where did it come from, you can keep going back and back but at the end you always get to God.

*Understanding* : This gift helps us to see deeper into the mysteries of our Faith and God's teaching, to realize, for example, that Our Lord is really present in the Blessed Sacrament, that Our Blessed Lady is the Mother of God.

*Wisdom* : This helps us not only to know what God teaches but to love it. It is a wonderful thing, for

example, to realise fully what we mean when we say that God is our Father and so love to do whatever He wants us to do.

*Counsel* : This gift helps us to decide what God wants us to do and also to advise others.

*Fortitude* is the gift of boldness, bravery and perseverance. The finest examples of it are the martyrs. But there are also very many examples of fortitude in the lives of quite ordinary Catholics. Because they love God and have a strong faith in His Church they are ready to make sacrifices such as penance in Lent, going to Mass without fail, saving up for Catholic schools. There are many other sacrifices Catholics have to make which you will find out when you grow older. The gift of fortitude helps us to do these things contentedly and with perseverance.

*Piety* is a tender and affectionate love of God. It helps us to be very devoted to Him, to make visits to the Blessed Sacrament, to say our prayers always, to remember that Almighty God is with us all the time, all day.

*Fear of the Lord* really means a great respect and reverence for God. It doesn't mean being afraid of God. But it does mean being on our guard for fear we lose God by committing sin. (If you are never afraid of traffic you will get run over. If you are never afraid of fire you will get burnt. If you are never afraid of dangerous occasions of sin you will fall into mortal sin.) The gift of fear helps us to avoid sin, to be deeply sorry for the sins we have committed, and to take great care to avoid the occasions of sin and to have a proper respect for the majesty and holiness of God.

All these gifts of the Holy Spirit are to help us to use the graces which the Holy Spirit is going to give us later. If you want to receive a wireless or TV. programme you have to tune in to the right station ; then when the

broadcast starts you get the sound and picture on your set. These gifts of the Holy Spirit are like our soul being tuned in ready to receive the messages when the Holy Spirit sends them to us later. The Holy Spirit you see is moulding and forming our soul to be like Our Lord. He sets our mind and heart in a special way so that we have a really Catholic way of looking at things. He makes our souls sensitive and responsive to his promptings.

The Holy Spirit gives us a great increase of sanctifying grace. Sanctifying grace is the most wonderful gift that God ever gives us. It is a share in His own life so that whenever we do a good action God the Father, Son and Holy Ghost are doing it with us. They start us off, work with us and finish it off with us, too. We are never alone, we are always working hand in hand with the Blessed Trinity.

So the grace of Confirmation is that we receive the Holy Ghost, an increase of sanctifying grace and the power to be a strong and perfect Christian and a soldier of Jesus Christ.

We know that Our Lord made this Sacrament because, as we have seen, He promised the Holy Spirit to His Apostles and the Apostles, who knew what Our Lord wanted, used to give the Sacrament of Confirmation themselves. We read of the Apostles "laying hands upon" those who had been baptised and the people receiving the Holy Ghost" (Acts 8 : 14-17). Two hundred years later St Cyprian who was a Bishop in Africa wrote this : "Exactly the same thing happens with us today. Those who have been baptised in the Church are presented to the bishops of the Church so that by our prayer and the imposition of our hands they may receive the Holy Spirit."

## THE OUTWARD SIGN

We can see now what is the outward sign which gives the inward grace. It is the laying on of hands and the prayer the bishop says.

When the bishop confirms anybody he first of all stretches out his hands over those who are to be confirmed and prays that the Holy Ghost will come down upon them. Then each one kneels before him and he anoints them with chrism in the form of a cross on their forehead saying : "I sign thee with the sign of the cross and I confirm thee with the chrism of salvation in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost." When he touches the forehead with the chrism this is the real laying on of hands. For the Sacrament to be a true Sacrament it is necessary that he should do this and also say the words.

Chrism is a mixture of oil and balsam. Athletes rub their limbs with oil to make them strong and so oil is a sign of strength. It is a sign that the Holy Ghost is coming strongly and gently into our soul just like oil is strong and yet smooth. Balsam is a perfumed liquid so that there is a lovely perfume about chrism. This is to signify that our lives by our example and our prayers should be delightful and attractive spiritually to people just as perfume spreads on the air and is delightful and attractive.

The rest of the prayers the bishop says, you can read further on in this book. When he has anointed the forehead the bishop gives a tap on the cheek to the one who has been confirmed. This is to show that we must be ready to stand up for our Faith and to bear suffering and even death if necessary in defence of it. The bishop says "Peace be to you". Our Lord said this when he appeared to the Apostles after his resurrection. So when

the bishop touches your cheek you may also think of him as passing on to you this greeting from Our Lord.

A new soldier needs to learn his trade and so a trained soldier is always appointed to show him and help him. When we are confirmed we have two trained soldiers to help us. One is a saint in heaven, the saint whose name we take at Confirmation. We should have a great devotion to our patron saint and often pray to him or her to help us to be a good soldier of Our Lord. The other trained soldier is our sponsor, that is the Catholic man or woman who stands by us when we are being confirmed. The sponsor puts his right hand on our right shoulder and so promises to help us to be a good Catholic and a good soldier of Jesus Christ. The sponsor therefore has a duty to set a good example to the godchild, to pray for him or her and to help if necessary, by advice and encouragement and maybe even by warning.

It is the bishop who gives the Sacrament of Confirmation. He is the successor of the Apostles. He has been consecrated bishop by another bishop and he in his turn by another and you can go back in this way in an unbroken line to one of the Apostles. It is a wonderful thing to think when you kneel before the bishop to be confirmed, that when he puts his hand on your forehead it is as though all that long line of bishops right back to the Apostles were putting their hand on you in the name of Our Lord to give you the great graces of the Sacrament.

By a special permission of the Pope, when a bishop is not available, a parish priest may confirm those who are in danger of death by sickness if they have not already been confirmed. Sometimes, also, a priest is empowered to confirm where a bishop is not available, for example, in some of the foreign missions.

In short, *Confirmation* is the *Sacrament* by which we receive the Holy Ghost in order to make us strong and perfect Christians and soldiers of Jesus Christ. It was *ordained by Our Lord* when He promised the Holy Ghost to His Apostles and fulfilled His promise by sending the Holy Ghost to them on the first Whit Sunday. *The outward sign* is when the bishop lays his hands on the one to be confirmed, by anointing him or her with chrism on the forehead saying at the same time the words, *I sign thee with the sign of the cross and I confirm thee with the chrism of salvation in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.* *The inward grace* is the Holy Ghost coming into our souls to make them more like Our Lord. His seven gifts help us to know, love and serve God as disciples of Our Lord so that we can help Him in His Church to save souls.

#### BEFORE CONFIRMATION

We should prepare very carefully when we are going to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Once we know that we are going to be confirmed we should say a special prayer every day to the Holy Ghost and also to the saint who is to be our patron. We should remember that we are now going to be disciples of Our Lord and ask ourself if we have been setting a good example so far and how we can do better in the future. We should make sure that we are in a state of grace when we come to receive Confirmation and so make a very good Confession and a good Holy Communion. It would be a good idea to make a novena just before the day we are to be confirmed, that is, to go to Holy Communion every day for nine days before our Confirmation day.

Especially, of course, we should pray to Our Blessed Lady. She will be taking a very great interest in us

and will be very delighted at the thought that we are going to be a special helper of her Son. The angel said she was "full of grace" and the gifts of the Holy Ghost are seen at their best in her life. Just think how full she was of wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and the fear of the Lord. So we should pray also to Our Lady every day. You will find some prayers at the end of this book.

#### AFTER CONFIRMATION

After we are confirmed comes the time when we have got to show whether we really are good soldiers of Our Lord. The gifts of the Holy Spirit and the grace of God will not make us good soldiers and saints unless we are prepared to do our share. Faith, hope and charity are habits that God gives us.

When we have a habit of doing something it means that we have done it so often that it comes easily to us. A boy who is a good footballer is so because he has got the habit of playing football. A girl who is a good pianist is so because she has acquired the habit of playing the piano so that it comes easily to her. But if the boy tied his ankles together or the girl tied her hands together, the good habit wouldn't be any use to either of them.

So these habits of Faith, Hope and Charity which God gives us (we can't get them ourselves, only God can give them to us) will not be any use to us if we tie our hands by sin. To make the full use therefore of the grace of Confirmation, we should be regular and devout at our prayers. We should go to Confession regularly, to Holy Communion often.

The result will be the growth in our soul of the twelve fruits of the Holy Ghost : Charity, joy, peace, patience,

benignity, goodness, longanimity, mildness, faith, modesty, continency, chastity. We shall really be the kind of person Our Lord wants to be His helper.

We should be on the look-out for ways in which we can work for Our Blessed Lord. Earlier on we mentioned example, prayer and explanation of the Faith to others. But we should also be keen to help in the work of the parish. We should find one of the very many Catholic societies which are doing such good work and be ready to give some of our time and energy there. There is wonderful work being done in the world by Catholic lay men and women for the Church of God and for their neighbours. We should get to know as much as we can about our Faith, to understand it thoroughly and to be able to explain it to others. Above all, we must be very loyal and devoted to our leader, our Blessed Lord.

A soldier is no good unless he is ready to obey orders at once. A soldier is no good unless he has a real love for the cause for which he is fighting. We have the best leader and the best cause that there can possibly be. Here is Our Lord standing before us and saying : *Come, follow me.* Just imagine if He came before you now and said, "I want you to do something for me." You would say at once, "Certainly Lord, here I am." You wouldn't start asking Him was it hard or easy, was it pleasant or unpleasant. You would just say, "Whatever you say Lord I am ready to do." Now that's the way we should be when we are confirmed. That's what we should tell Our Lord every day. And you can be sure that He will give you all the strength you need to do it and very great joy and delight when you are doing it.

## PRAYERS

Holy Spirit, true God, you have been living in my soul with the Father and the Son since the day I was baptized. And now you are going to give me even greater graces than before.

Enlighten my mind to know you more clearly ; strengthen my will to trust you more firmly ; warm my heart to love you more dearly.

Make me a strong and perfect Christian, a disciple and a soldier of Our Lord. Watch over me and guide me so that I may always be a loyal Catholic.

O Blessed Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, I desire to love you with all my heart and my neighbour as myself for your sake.

I now solemnly promise that I will be faithful to you and to the Holy Catholic Church all the days of my life. I promise also that I will do all I can by prayer, by word and by example to convert others.

Mary, Spouse of the Holy Ghost, Mother of Christ and my mother pray for me.

St N., my holy patron, pray for me.

Come O Holy Spirit fill the hearts of thy faithful and kindle in them the fire of thy love.

℣. Send forth thy Spirit and they shall be created  
℟. And thou shalt renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray

O God, who hast taught the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant that by the gift of the same Spirit we may be always truly wise and ever rejoice in His consolation. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

## HYMN

Come, Holy Ghost, Creator, come  
From thy bright heavenly throne,  
Come, take possession of our souls,  
And make them all thy own.

Thou who art called the Paraclete,  
Best gift of God above,  
The living spring, the living fire,  
Sweet unction and true love.

Thou who art sevenfold in thy grace,  
Finger of God's right hand ;  
His promise, teaching little ones  
To speak and understand.

O guide our minds with thy blest light,  
With love our hearts inflame ;  
And with thy strength which ne'er decays,  
Confirm our mortal frame.

Far from us drive our deadly foe ;  
True peace unto us bring ;  
And through all perils lead us safe  
Beneath thy sacred wing.

Through thee may we the Father know,  
Through thee the eternal Son,  
And thee the Spirit of them both,  
Thrice-blessed Three in One.

All glory to the Father be,  
With his co-equal Son :  
The same to thee, great Paraclete,  
While endless ages run. Amen.

## THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION

[NOTE. In the *Instruction on putting into effect the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* issued by the Sacred Congregation of Rites in September, 1964, it is stated that the sacrament of Confirmation may be administered during Mass, after the Gospel and Homily. If the Mass is celebrated by the Bishop himself, he will administer Confirmation wearing the Mass vestments.]

*The Bishop, vested in white stole and cope, and mitre of cloth of gold, will be seated on the faldstool while he addresses the candidates for Confirmation.*

*The mitre is removed and the Bishop stands, with joined hands, facing the candidates who kneel with their hands joined while he says or sings:*

Spiritus Sanctus super-  
veniat in vos et virtus  
Altissimi custodiat vos a  
peccatis.

R7. Amen.

¶ Adjutorium nostrum  
in nomine Domini.

R7. Qui fecit caelum et  
terram.

¶ Domine, exaudi ora-  
tionem meam.

R7. Et clamor meus ad te  
veniat.

May the Holy Ghost  
come down upon you, and  
may the power of the  
Most High God keep you  
free from every sin.

Amen.

Our help is in the name of  
the Lord.

Who made heaven and  
earth.

Lord, hear my prayer.

And let my cry come to  
thee.

℣. Dóminus vobiscum. The Lord be with you.  
 ℞. Et cum spírítu tuo. And with you.

*Then, stretching out his hands towards those to be confirmed, he says or sings:*

Orémus. Let us pray.

Omnípotens sempitérne Deus, qui regeneráre dignátus es hos fámulos tuos ex aqua et Spírítu Sancto, quique dedísti eis remissionem ómnium peccatórum; emítte in eos septifórmem Spírítum tuum Sanctum Paráclitum de cælis.

℞. Amen.

℣. Spírítum sapientíæ et intelléctus.

℞. Amen.

℣. Spírítum consílii et fortitúdinis.

℞. Amen.

℣. Spírítum sciéntiæ et pietátis.

℞. Amen.

Adímple eos Spírítu timóris tui, consígna eos signo Cru ✠ cis Christi in vitam propitiatus atérnam. Per eúmdem

Almighty, everlasting God, who hast given new life through water and the Holy Ghost to these thy servants, and granted them forgiveness of all their sins, send down upon them from heaven thy Holy Spirit the Paraclete with his sevenfold gifts.

Amen.

The Spirit of wisdom and of understanding.

Amen.

The Spirit of counsel and of fortitude.

Amen.

The Spirit of knowledge and of piety.

Amen.

Fill them with the Spirit of reverent fear of thyself and in thy goodness mark them out for eternal life with the sign of the Cross

Dóminum nostrum Jesum ✠ of Christ. Through the Christum Fílium tuum: same Jesus Christ thy Son Qui tecum vivit et regnat our Lord; who lives with thee in the unity of the in unitáte ejúsdem Spírítus Sancti, Deus, per same Holy Spirit, God for ómnia sáecula sáeculórum. ever.  
 ℞. Amen. Amen.

*The Bishop sits down and the mitre is put on. A linen veil is spread over his lap and fastened, and the sacred chrism is brought to him.*

*The candidates now come forward, hands ungloved, each having a card on which his or her name is written, to be handed to the assistant on the Bishop's right. Each kneels in turn before the Bishop and the god-parent lays his or her right hand, ungloved, on the candidate's right shoulder. The Bishop, having dipped the thumb of his right hand in the chrism, makes the sign of the cross with it, once on the forehead of each one, his hand laid on the head, saying:*

N. Signo te signo Cru ✠ cis, et confirmo te chrísmate salútis. In nómine Patris, ✠ et Fílii, et Spírítus Sancti. N. I sign thee with the sign of the ✠ Cross and I confirm thee with the Chrism of salvation. In the name of the Father, ✠ and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.  
 ℞. Amen. Amen.

*While these last words are said he makes the sign of the cross three times over the candidate and then strikes him lightly on the left cheek, saying:*

Pax tecum.

Peace be with you.

*The candidate moves away and the chrism is removed by a priest with a piece of cotton wool.*

*When all have been confirmed the Bishop washes his hands while the following antiphon is said or sung:*

Confirma hoc, Deus, quod operatus es in nobis, a templo sancto tuo, quod est in Jerúsalem.

¶ Glória Patri, et Fílio, et Spíritui Sancto.

R̄. Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen.

Confirma hoc, Deus, quod operatus es in nobis, a templo sancto tuo, quod est in Jerusalem.

*After this the mitre is removed and the Bishop rises, turns towards the altar, and, with joined hands, says or sings:*

¶ Osténde nobis, Dómine, misericórdiam tuam.

R̄. Et salutáre tuum da nobis.

¶ Dómine, exáudi orationem meam.

R̄. Et clamor meus ad te véniat.

Confirm, O God, what thou hast wrought in us, from thy holy temple in Jerusalem.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

Amen.

Confirm, O God, what thou hast wrought in us, from thy holy temple in Jerusalem.

Show us, O Lord, thy mercy.

And grant us thy salvation.

Lord, hear my prayer.

And let my cry come to thee.

¶. Dóminus vobíscum. The Lord be with you.

R̄. Et cum spíritu tuo. And with you.

Orémus.

Deus, qui Apóstolis tuis Sanctum dedísti Spíritum, et per eos eorúmque successóres, céteris fídelibus tradéndum esse voluísti; réspice propítius ad humilitátis nostræ famulátum, et præsta; ut eórum corda quorum frontes sacro chrismate delinívimus, et signo sanctæ Crucis signávimus, idem Spíritus Sanctus in eis supervéniens, templum glóriæ suæ dignánter inhabitándo perfíciat. Qui cum Patre, et eódem Spíritu Sancto vivis et regnas, Deus, in sæcula sæculórum.

R̄. Amen.

*Then, still facing the altar, he says:*

Ecce sic benedicétur Thus shall every man be omnis homo qui timet blessed who fears the Dóminum. Lord.

Let us pray.

O God who didst give thy holy Spirit to the Apostles and didst will that through them and through those who should come after them, he should be given to the rest of the faithful; look favourably upon this humble fulfilment of our office, and grant that the same Holy Spirit, coming into the hearts of those whose foreheads we have marked with Sacred Chrism and signed with the sign of the holy Cross, may dwell therein and make of them a living temple of his glory. Who with the Father and the same Holy Spirit lives and reigns, God, for ever.

Amen.

*Turning towards the persons confirmed, he makes the sign of the cross over them, once, saying:*

Bene✠dícat vos Dóminus  
ex Sion, ut videátis bona  
Jerúsalem ómnibus diébus  
vitæ vestræ, et habeátis  
vitam ætérrnam.

May the Lord bless ✠  
you from Sion, and all the  
days of your earthly life  
keep before your eyes  
the treasures of the  
heavenly Jerusalem. And  
may eternal life be  
yours.

*R.* Amen.

Amen.

*The Bishop may then sit and resume the mitre to give an exhortation or the service may close with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.*

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