

DIOCESE OF ALLENTOWN

THE BISHOP'S CONFIRMATION QUESTIONS

WHAT IS CONFIRMATION?

Confirmation is the sacrament in which the Holy Spirit comes to us in a special way to join us more closely to Jesus and His church and to seal and strengthen us as Christ's witnesses.

WHAT ARE THE SACRAMENTS?

The Sacraments are sacred signs through which Jesus gives us His Spirit and makes us holy and pleasing to Him by grace.

HOW MANY SACRAMENTS ARE THERE?

There are seven sacraments.

WHAT ARE THE NAMES OF THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS?

The seven sacraments are: Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist, Penance, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders and Matrimony.

HOW IS CONFIRMATION GIVEN?

The bishop extends his hands over the person and anoints the forehead in the form of a cross while saying: "Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit." The person being confirmed answers, "Amen," meaning, "Let it be so." The Gift is the Holy Spirit Himself. He is the Gift of the Father and the Son to us.

WHAT IS CHRISM?

Chrism is a blessed mixture of oil and balm used during the baptismal ceremony, in Confirmation, during the ordination of priests and bishops, and in the consecration of churches, altars, and other things.

WHO IS THE MINISTER OF CONFIRMATION?

The bishop is the ordinary minister of Confirmation.

WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF CONFIRMATION?

The effects of Confirmation are: an increase of sanctifying grace, the gift of a special sacramental grace and the imprint of a lasting character on the soul.

WHAT ARE THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are wisdom, understanding, right judgment, fortitude, knowledge, reverent love and holy fear.