

Explaining Confirmation and The Holy Spirit *By Deacon Tim Sullivan*

It's hard to describe God the Father, easier to describe Jesus since He became human and harder again to describe the Holy Spirit, who is given to us at our Confirmation.

If Baptism is the sacrament in which we become committed to make Jesus the center of our lives, it is the presence and power of the Holy Spirit that gives us the strength to live out our commitment to Jesus.

The Holy Spirit, then, is a source of grace and direction. The grace of the Holy Spirit is described in the gifts of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament (Isaiah 11:2-3) and the New Testament (1 Corinthians 12:4-11). It is extremely important for your children to know that "To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit." 1 Cor. 12:7 So every child should be attentive to how the Holy Spirit is working in them.

Next, the Holy Spirit communicates God's will to each of us. Each of us must be alert to promptings received from the Spirit. Most often, the guidance we receive from the Holy Spirit connects us with others. The Holy Spirit is like the conductor of a huge orchestra, linking all of the musicians together to make a beautiful harmony.

To provide our children with real life examples of what the Holy Spirit does, go over specific passages in the Acts of Apostles in the Bible. The experiences of the Holy Spirit described in Acts are just as available to us now as they were in the earliest days of Christianity.

We should pray to the Holy Spirit many times every day, asking for the Spirit's guidance in every situation in which we find ourselves. Here's a short prayer:

"Holy Spirit, come to me. Enlighten me, guide me, strengthen me. Tell me what I should do. Give me the courage and will to obey You."