

Confirmation Homily

Bishop Timothy C. Senior
St. Mary's Catholic Church – Lebanon, Pennsylvania
Confirmation Mass | Saturday, March 7 | 11:00 AM

During the Confirmation Mass at St. Mary's, we were honored to welcome Bishop Timothy C. Senior, who celebrated the sacrament and delivered a beautiful homily to our young men and women receiving Confirmation.

In his message, Bishop Senior reminded the candidates — and all present — that the Sacrament of Confirmation strengthens us with the gifts of the Holy Spirit and calls us to live our faith boldly.

Confirmation Homily

First of all, I would like to acknowledge those who work in the important ministry of religious education and faith formation — the faculty, catechists, and those who administer the program. You accompany these young people and witness to your faith through the sacrifices you make to carry on this very important work of the Church, forming these young people in the faith.

Thank you as well to the sponsors. You have played an important role in their lives, and the Holy Spirit has worked through you. I am sure they look to you as a source of encouragement and affirmation, and as an example of what it means to live a faithful Christian life. Please continue to walk with them in that way.

You will place your hand on their shoulder as they are being confirmed. Remember that in that moment the Holy Spirit is working not only in them, but through you as well.

Gratitude to Parents and Guardians

I also want to thank the parents and guardians of these young people.

The role you play in their lives and in their faith formation is the most important one of all. I know that you have made many sacrifices for your children — willingly, gladly, and sometimes without even thinking about it.

By making those sacrifices, you ensure that your children receive the greatest gift anyone can have in this life — the gift of faith in Jesus Christ.

Is there any treasure more priceless than having a relationship with the Lord? To know Him, to hear His Word, to learn the teachings of the Church, and to encounter Him so intimately in the sacraments?

When they were baptized, the priest or deacon handed you a candle lit from the Paschal candle and said: "Receive the light of Christ."

That light of Christ was entrusted to you. Today that light burns brighter through the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Confirmation is not the end. It is a beginning. The Holy Spirit will continue to work in their lives.

A Message to the Candidates

Dear young people, this is an important moment in your lives. You have prepared for this day for a long time.

As St. Paul reminds us in the Letter to the Romans, sometimes we do not know how to pray, but the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness.

First: God Loves You

You are being confirmed because God loves you.

He loves you so much that He wants to be close to you, and He does not want anything to stand in the way of that relationship.

Even when life is difficult or when we make mistakes, God never distances Himself from us. Instead, He invites us to return to Him.

That is why the Church gives us the beautiful gift of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Second: God Has a Plan for Your Life

God created you exactly as you are — with your gifts, your talents, and even your weaknesses. Somehow He will use all of that.

The Holy Spirit will help you discover that mission and follow it.

Sometimes God's plan surprises us. When I was your age I never imagined that I would become a priest, let alone a bishop.

Following Jesus Means Sacrifice

Jesus tells us that to follow Him means taking up our cross.

Sometimes that means sacrifice — choosing what is good rather than what is easy. Every one of us is here today because someone else made sacrifices for us.

Becoming Like Christ

Through the Sacrament of Confirmation, you are configured more closely to Christ. The gifts of the Holy Spirit help you to think like Jesus, act like Jesus, and love like Jesus.

Let Jesus be visible in you.

The World Needs Faithful Christians

Our world needs Christians who live their faith openly and courageously.

Be the Christians the Church calls you to be. Be the Christians the world needs you to be.

Discover God's plan for your life. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Follow that plan with all your heart.

You are being confirmed because God loves you.