

**THE BISHOPS SUMMIT ON THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION
MAY 8, 2007
CLOSING PRAYER**

GATHERING SONG: “SERVANT SONG”

Refrain: Be fair and just. Be merciful and true.
 These are the things I am asking of you.
 Walk humbly with your God, in everything you do.
 This is the way that will lead you to the truth.

1. To you, O Lord, we lift our souls. To you O Lord, we pray.
 For we open our hearts to you O God, awaken us, show us the way. (Refrain)
2. Lead us on the path of truth. Guide us along the way.
 Remember your kindness and mercy, O God. Give us your wisdom today.(R)
3. Breathe in us the spirit of life. Awaken our senses this day
 to feel your presence in all of the earth. Move in us, lead us to you. (R)
4. Mold our hearts for all that is good. Let kindness be our guide.
 May we be your voice to others in need, your shelter where friends can abide.
 (Refrain)

Text: Micah 6:8, Psalm 25; Ziggy Stardust and Bobby Fisher b.1952

Tune: Bobby Fisher, b. 1952

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OPENING PRAYER: **“Father of light, from whom every good gift comes,
send your Spirit into our lives
with the power of a mighty wind,
and by the flame of your wisdom
open the horizons of our minds.
Loosen our tongues to sing your praise
in words beyond the power of speech,
for without your Spirit
man could never raise his voice in words of peace
or announce the truth that Jesus is Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.” Amen.**

(Opening Prayer for Pentecost Sunday)

SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7,12-13

**“Brothers and sisters: No one can say, “Jesus is Lord.” except
by the Holy Spirit.**

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit.

As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.

RESPONSE TO READING: “YOU HAVE ANOINTED ME”

1. To bring glad tidings to the lowly, to heal the broken heart,
You have anointed me.
To proclaim liberty to captives, release to prisoners,
You have anointed me.

Refrain: Your Spirit O God, is upon me,
 You have anointed me.

2. To announce a year of favor, to comfort those who mourn,
You have anointed me.
To give to them the oil of gladness, and share a mantle of joy,
You have anointed me. (Refrain)

Text: Mike Balhoff, b. 1946, Gary Daigle, b. 1957, Darryl Ducote, b. 1945
Tune: Mike Balhoff, b. 1946, Gary Daigle, b. 1957; acc. by Gary Daigle, b. 1945
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MEDITATION ON THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT—PROCESSION OF CANDLES

Reader #1

As Confirmed Christians, the Gifts of the Holy Spirit are actively present in us. They are the gifts that keep on giving. We need only call upon the Gift of the Spirit to realize its influence. Let us focus for a moment on each of these gifts. To symbolize the presence of the Spirit in our lives, we will light and focus on the candle representing that gift as we meditate on the meaning of the gift.

Reader #2

The first lighted candle represents the gift of Wisdom. The gift of Wisdom helps us see things through God’s eyes. A wise person doesn’t look at things from just one point of view but sees the whole picture. Wisdom helps us judge all the events in our lives according to our belief in God.

Reader #1

The second candle represents the Gift of Understanding. This gift enables us to gain deeper insights into what we believe by faith. The gift of Understanding leads us beyond just knowing the beliefs of the Church. It is “heart-knowledge.” To understand is to see from another person’s heart—to feel and to know the feelings of another’s heart.

Reader #2

The third candle represents the Gift of Counsel or Right Judgment. Right Judgment means making good decisions. In order to make good decisions, one needs to do the necessary background work, to look at the alternatives, and to study the consequences. With the Gift of Counsel or Right Judgment, we need not make hard decisions by ourselves. We can turn to the Catholic Community for help and guidance when we need to see the right thing to do among the many choices we have to make every day.

Reader #1

The fourth candle represents the Gift of Courage. This gift helps us to be strong in our beliefs as Christians, to live firmly by faith instead of by fear. The gift of Courage is the gift that enables a person to live up to the decisions he or she has made, no matter what obstacles emerge. Courage means following one’s own convictions no matter what the cost may be.

Reader #2

The fifth candle represents the Gift of Knowledge. This gift broadens the minds and hearts of Christians so that when they come together they can learn and share with one another. It is the gift of thinking clearly and understanding the world as it is.

Reader #1

The sixth candle represents the Gift of Reverence. The Gift of Reverence teaches a person to treasure life and all that sustains it. The gift of Reverence helps us to hold reality as loving parents would hold their children—with tenderness and great care. It encourages us to praise God freely and to respect all people.

Reader #2

The last candle represents the Gift of Wonder and Awe in God’s Presence. It is the gift which allows us to recognize, with a profound sense of amazement, that we are always in God’s presence. This gift allows a person to experience all of life as a great gift given by God. It helps us respect the goodness and majesty of God.

Reader #1

These gifts of the Holy Spirit are not granted just for the happiness of the person who receives them. They are given for

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the good of your entire parish, for the good of the whole
Church, and for the good of the entire world. The gifts
Holy Spirit are given to build up the Body of Christ and
make it holy. The Body of Christ is made holy because
gifts strengthen Christians to bear witness to Christ.
enable the People of God to live as Jesus lived. The gifts
Holy Spirit give people all that is needed to become active
members and total participants in Christian Life.

BLESSING

“All powerful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
By water and the Holy Spirit
you freed your sons and daughters
from sin and gave them new life.
Send your Holy Spirit upon them to be their Helper and
Guide.
Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of right judgement and courage,
the spirit of knowledge and reverence.
Fill them with the spirit of wonder and awe in Your presence.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.”

(From the Rite of Confirmation)

CLOSING SONG:

“GO MAKE OF ALL DISCIPLES”

1. “Go make of all disciples:” We hear the call, O Lord,
That comes from you, our Father, In your eternal Word.
Inspire our ways of learning Through earnest, fervent prayer,
And let our daily living Reveal you ev’ry-where.
2. “Go make of all disciples:” Baptizing in the name
Of Father, son, and Spirit—From age to age the same.
We call each new disciple To follow you, O Lord,
Redeeming soul and body By water and the Word.
3. “Go make of all disciples:” We at your feet would stay
Until each life’s vocation Accents your holy way.
We cultivate the nature God plants in ev’ry heart,
Revealing in our witness The Master Teacher’s art.
4. “Go make of all disciples:” We welcome your command;
“Lo I am with you always:” We take your guiding hand.
The task looms large before us—We follow without fear.
In heav’n and earth your power Shall bring God’s kingdom here.

