

Youth Confirmation Interview Questions

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30. Describe your Confirmation saint. Why did you choose him or her? (answer not included)
31. Who is your sponsor? Why did you choose him or her? (answer not included)
32. Is Confirmation like graduation? Why or why not? (answer not included. Hint - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NVsOgyTxQcM>)

Youth Confirmation Interview Answers #1-26

**answers adapted from the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Life Teen, YDisciple, & Catholic Answers,*

1. What is grace?

Grace is the free and undeserved gift of the divine life of God. It is a participation in the life of God and it is given to us in a real way through the sacraments.

2. Describe the 2 main kinds of grace.

There are two main kinds of grace: sanctifying grace and actual grace. Sanctifying grace is saving grace. The reason you need sanctifying grace is to be able to live in heaven (cf. Gal. 2:19, 1 Pet. 3:18). Because of The Fall, we all inherit original sin. Romans 6:23 tells us that “the wages of sin is death.” Because of original sin, we are all separated from God and need the grace merited for us by the death and resurrection of Christ to put us in right relationship with God, to sanctify us and make us holy.

For example, you want to live in the deep blue sea, you need equipment you aren't provided with naturally; you need something that will elevate you above your nature, something super- (that is, "above") natural, such as oxygen tanks. It's much the same with your soul. In its natural state, it isn't fit for heaven. It doesn't have the right equipment. What you need to live there is supernatural life, not just natural life. That supernatural life is called sanctifying grace.

To the soul cut off from God by original sin, Baptism brings sanctifying grace for the first time. To the soul cut off from God by its own sin, by mortal sin, the sacrament of Reconciliation restores the sanctifying grace that has been lost. The other five sacraments—Confirmation, Holy Eucharist, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders, and Matrimony—give an increase in sanctifying grace

Remember, this is not by anything we do other than allowing ourselves to be open to receiving the grace. God is doing the heavy lifting – grace is a gift.

Actual grace is given to us in moments of our need. When we need to stand up for someone that is being bullied or need to walk out of a sinful situation, even when it is hard. Those are moments of “actual grace.” God helps us in a real way and it impacts our ability to endure trial, difficulty, and have courage. We can petition God to give us grace or to give grace to others.

3. What is a sacrament?

- a sensible sign
- instituted by Jesus
- entrusted to the Church
- to give grace (the effect of the sacrament)

Every sacrament uses sensible things (things we can see, hear, smell, touch, or taste) which constitute its outward sign. Sacraments are efficacious (they produce an effect - grace). This means that the sacraments don't simply communicate an idea or thought, they actually communicate grace.

4. How many sacraments are there? Why are there different ones?

There are seven sacraments and each of them were instituted by Christ and given to the Church through the Apostles. Each sacrament shows us a particular way in which grace is given to us. Each is unique and each comes with its own type of grace (sacramental grace). Jesus instituted each individual sacrament because He foresaw, in His infinite wisdom, that we would have need of certain special graces under certain particular circumstances.

5. What are the Sacraments of Initiation? Healing? Service?

The seven sacraments are divided into three groups:

1. The Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist
2. The Sacraments of Healing: Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick
3. The Sacraments of Service: Holy Orders, Matrimony

6. Can't a person go directly to God without the needing sacraments?

Any person can always pray directly to God and should have a personal relationship with Him. However, God Himself established the Church as a way for him to teach us and to enrich us with His grace. Jesus Christ gave us the Church and the sacraments for our salvation and holiness.

7. What if we don't feel anything when we receive a sacrament? How do we know that any of the sacraments really work?

Each of the sacraments is effective (they give grace) whether we feel it or not. It is sometimes only in looking back that we can recognize how Christ has touched us and helped us through the sacraments. They work because God promised to work through them. He attached graces to the outward sign, so to speak, so that the sign and the grace always go together. This is what makes the sacraments so important; they use physical signs to assure us that the grace they signify is being given to us.

8. Why is Baptism so important? What are its effects?

Baptism is a big deal for several reasons:

- The first is that Baptism is permanent – the sacrament imprints an indelible mark on our soul; this means that nothing can remove our mark. We are permanently property of Christ; He has marked us. We can choose to ignore or reject this mark by ignoring or rejecting Christ, but we can never remove it. Nothing can erase this mark and that is why we can only be baptized once.
- The Sacrament of Baptism, the first of the Sacraments of Initiation, is our entrance into the Church.
- Through Baptism, we are cleansed of original sin and receive sanctifying grace, which is the life of God within our souls.
- In His encounter with Nicodemus (John 3:1-21), Christ made it clear that Baptism was necessary for salvation
- For Catholics, the Sacrament is not just something we do; it is the very mark of a Christian, because it brings us into new life in Christ.
- Our souls are infused with grace that allows us to believe in God, hope in God, and love God.
- At Baptism, we are given the gifts of the Holy Spirit. They help us grow in our faith. The Holy Spirit works in our lives and ultimately helps us believe in Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and enables us to pray.
- Finally, the Sacrament of Baptism makes us adopted sons and daughters of God. We are brought into the family of God. No matter what happens or where you go in this world, you will always have a family with the Catholic Church. You will always belong.

9. How did the Holy Spirit change the lives of the Apostles?

The Apostles had every advantage in being with Jesus in person. They heard Him preach and saw the many miracles that He had done. And yet, they were frightened men living their faith life in a locked room before they received the Holy Spirit. On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit filled them and gave them the gifts and strength needed to fulfill the mission that was given to them. What took place in the upper room would change the course of human history.

10. What does the Holy Spirit do for us? Why is having a relationship with Him so important?

The only way we are able to fully live a life of faith, a life full of love, peace, joy and power is by the Holy Spirit. Having a relationship with the Holy Spirit is absolutely crucial in the Christian life. The Holy Spirit:

Job 33:4 – gives life

"The breath of the Almighty gives me life."

Romans 5:5 – gives us God's love

"The Love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us."

Acts 5:32 – witnesses to Jesus

"We are witnesses of these things, as is the Holy Spirit that God has given to those who obey him"

Acts 1:8 – gives us power to be witnesses

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

2 Corinthians 3:17 - brings freedom

"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom."

Romans 8:5-11- dwells in us, presence means belonging to Christ, gives life, empowers us to live for God

"For those who live according to the flesh are concerned with the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the spirit with the things of the spirit. The concern of the flesh is death, but the concern of the spirit is life and peace. For the concern of the flesh is hostility toward God; it does not submit to the law of God, nor can it; and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; on the contrary, you are in the spirit, if only the Spirit of God dwells in you. Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is alive because of righteousness. If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also, through his Spirit that dwells in you."

Galatians 5:18, 22-25-26 – guides and bears fruit in us, lives in us, we can follow the Spirit

But if you are guided by the Spirit, you are not under the law... the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ [Jesus] have crucified their flesh

with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also follow the Spirit.

John 16:13-15 – empowers us with the truth, is from God, glorifies God, and helps us remember the things that God has done

But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth. He will not speak on his own, but he will speak what he hears, and will declare to you the things that are coming. He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you. Everything that the Father has is mine; for this reason I told you that he will take from what is mine and declare it to you.

2 Timothy 1:7 – is a gift from God, a spirit of power and love and self-control

For this reason, I remind you to stir into flame the gift of God that you have through the imposition of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control.

John 16:7-8 - convicts

“But I tell you the truth, it is better for you that I go. For if I do not go, the Advocate will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes he will convict the world in regard to sin and righteousness and condemnation: sin, because they do not believe in me.”

John 20:21-23 – gives priests the power to forgive sins

[Jesus] said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.”

1 Cor12:3b – reveals to us who Jesus is

No one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.

11. What is the Sacrament of Confirmation?

Confirmation is one of the three Sacraments of Initiation, which lay the foundations of every Christian life. It is the sacrament in which the gift of the Holy Spirit received at Baptism is confirmed, strengthened, and perfected for living the Christian life and spreading the faith to others.

12. What does the word "confirmation" mean?

"Confirmation" means strengthening, to make firm.

13. What kind of graces do we receive at Confirmation?

The Sacrament of Confirmation increases our sanctifying grace (the kind of grace we need to go to heaven, the grace we receive in the Sacraments of Baptism and Reconciliation). Confirmation also gives us its own special, unique sacramental grace.

14. When was the Sacrament of Confirmation instituted by Christ?

Christ promised the outpouring of the Spirit. The promise was fulfilled most strikingly on Pentecost. At Pentecost, the apostles received the gift of the Holy Spirit. It occurred 50 days after Jesus rose from the dead and marks the beginning of the work of the Church as we know it today. You can read about Pentecost in Acts 2:1-4.

In fulfillment of Christ's will, the apostles then laid hands on other newly baptized Christians to impart the gift of the Spirit (Heb 6:2). The laying on of hands perpetuates the grace of Pentecost in the Church.

15. What are the effects of Confirmation?

- we become full members of the Catholic church (fully initiated)
- completes our Baptismal grace
- gives our soul an indelible (permanent) mark
- unites us more firmly to Christ
- helps us see more clearly that we belong to the family of God
- increases and "stirs into flame" the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us
- gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend by word and action as true witnesses of Christ

16. List the 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit. Why do we need them?

When we're confirmed, we receive an increase in the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord (from Is 11:2). These seven gifts of the Holy Spirit give us the power to live and witness to the Christian life.

You can remember them by this acronym:

P-U-F-F (puff) W-C-K (wick)

17. List the 12 traditional fruits of the Holy Spirit.

The fruits of the Holy Spirit are charity, joy, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, peace and chastity.

18. How are the “fruits” of the Holy Spirit different from the “gifts” of the Holy Spirit?

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are given to us at Baptism and stirred and strengthened at Confirmation. These seven gifts bring fruits of the Holy Spirit into our lives. Fruits of the Holy Spirit are the effects from living a holy, virtuous life

19. Who is the usual minister of the Sacrament of Confirmation?

In the tradition of the Roman Catholic Church, a bishop is the ordinary minister of the Sacrament of Confirmation. When circumstance arises, the bishop may not be able to celebrate and administer the Sacrament of Confirmation at a particular time and place. When this happens, the bishop may grant that a specific priest administer the sacrament in his stead.

20. What are the form (the words) and the matter (the physical part) of Confirmation?

All sacraments have a form and a matter.

The matter of a sacrament is the physical part:

- a. Baptism: water
- b. Confirmation: oil (Chrism)
- c. Holy Eucharist: bread and wine
- d. Reconciliation: laying of hands
- e. Anointing of the Sick: laying of hands
- f. Holy Orders: laying of hands
- g. Matrimony: bride and groom (mutual consent and the consummation of the marriage)

The form of the sacrament is made up of the words spoken within the sacrament:

- a. Baptism: "I baptize you in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit."
- b. Confirmation: "Receive the Holy Spirit"
- c. Holy Eucharist: "This is my body...this is my blood"
- d. Reconciliation: I, absolve you in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit."
- e. Anointing of the Sick: words of the blessing
- f. Holy Orders: calling down of Holy Spirit
- g. Matrimony: Marital Vows

21. Why is it significant to have a bishop, or his appointed representative, lay hands on your head?

A bishop is a successor to the Apostles. The Apostles received the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Laying on of hands was always the sign of the passing on of power from one person to another; we see this sign regularly used in the Jewish tradition. In the Acts of the Apostles, we see occasions when the Apostles laid hands on people and they received the Holy Spirit. When the bishop lays hands on your head, he is continuing a practice that goes back to the very beginning of the Church. Confirmation reminds us as Catholics that our faith is apostolic.

22. What is the meaning of being anointed and of the Chrism oil at Confirmation?

When a person is confirmed, the Bishop anoints the Confirmand's forehead with Chrism oil in the form of a cross. The anointing of Confirmation is sign of consecration. Consecration means to be set apart for God. Chrism Oil is a mixture of olive oil and balsam (a fragrant oil) blessed by the Bishop at the Chrism Mass during Holy Week. Oil is a sign of abundance and joy. It cleanses (before and after baths) and limbers (as for athletes). It is a sign of healing. It makes one radiant with beauty, health, and strength.

23. What do you think the significance is of being sealed with the Sign of the Cross at Confirmation?

The Bishop dips the tip of the thumb of his right hand in the Chrism and, with the thumb, makes the Sign of the Cross on the forehead of the one to be confirmed, as he says, "be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit." The seal with the Sign of the Cross represents our total belonging to Christ. It seals us with the Holy Spirit putting us at the service of Christ and gives us divine protection. St. Cyril of Jerusalem says this of Confirmation: "He is ready to mark your soul with His seal . . . He will give you the heavenly and divine seal which makes the devils tremble; He will arm you for the fight; He will give you strength."

24. What does it mean to be in a "state of grace?"

In its most basic sense, being in a state of grace means being in friendship with God. It means being free of mortal sin - those serious sins that destroy our relationship with God. Being in a state of grace is necessary to go to heaven.

25. Why do we need to be in a state of grace to receive Confirmation?

It is important that those being confirmed are in a state of grace to receive Confirmation. Confirmation is one of the 5 "sacraments of the living" (Confirmation, Eucharist, Matrimony, Holy Orders, Anointing of the Sick). This means we need to be in friendship with God, free of serious sin, to receive all of the effects from the Sacrament. If a person is not in a state of grace - if he or she has committed serious sin - he or she should go to the Sacrament of Confession to become in a state of grace before receiving Confirmation.

26. Can someone be Confirmed more than once? Why or why not?

Confirmation is one of only a few the sacraments that leaves an indelible (permanent) mark on the soul. Forever, the confirmed soul is sealed with the mark of belonging to Christ. Sin cannot erase this mark, even if sin prevents the soul's salvation. It also means that Confirmation is only to be given once because of the nature of the sacrament. It lasts forever so it never needs to be repeated. Three sacraments confer on the recipient an "indelible mark" - Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders.