

April 29, 2018: Celebration of Confirmation and Mother's Day

Dear Parishioners,

We celebrated Confirmation this past week. We were so happy to have 33 young people who were confirmed. We are grateful to Kelly Groesbeck, our Youth Minister, for providing the excellent formation of our confirmation students so they might be well disposed to receive the grace of this Sacrament. The support from sponsors, families, friends and parishioners was heartwarming and evident in the numbers that attended; thank you to all.

Bishop Mueggenborg did the confirmation and gave an excellent homily about the Sacrament of Confirmation and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. He reminded us that it is docility to the Holy Spirit that moves us along the path of doing God's will and transforms us to being that instrument, vessel and vehicle of God's love and presence in the world. And he said it is only God our creator who can give us our dignity, true identity and purpose as human beings and it is the Holy Spirit's action in us that fully realizes our potential as persons. Confirmation completes full initiation into the church which is vital for godparents and marriage. We can see this full potential at work in the lives of the Saints. They are the model for us of docility to the Holy Spirit.

One person in particular whom we can see this full realization of personhood was Mary. Mary was completely open and docile to the action of the Holy Spirit, first within her heart and then her body received the body of Christ. Mary had such a close and intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit that St. Maximillain Kolbe said Mary was the "spouse of the Holy Spirit". The action of Holy Spirit in Mary and in the Apostles after Pentecost are examples of what is possible with the Holy Spirit. The action of the Holy Spirit realizes potentials hitherto unimagined. The action of the Holy Spirit is necessary in making us to be the best versions of ourselves. Mary can teach us docility to the Holy Spirit.

During the month of May we celebrate Mother's Day and we think of think of Mary. Mary is our spiritual mother. May crowning's, Mary altars and praying the Rosary have been part of May for Catholics. I am happy that this year the school is setting up a Mary's altar so the children can bring flowers to honor Mary during May. May would be an excellent month to honor our mother Mary by praying the Rosary, learning more about the Rosary and going deeper into the mystery of the Rosary. I can't think at how happy Mary must be when we honor with a bouquet of flowers we call the Rosary. Incidentally the word "Rosary" comes from bouquet of roses.

There is a resource on FORMED though our website by Dr. Edward Sri on the Rosary if you may be interested in learning more about Praying the Rosary.

In Christ,

Father Vincent