

## Notes for Bishop's Confirmation Message

*NOTE: It is fitting for the pastor/sacramental minister to mention in the homily that the Bishop is the ordinary minister of the Sacrament of Confirmation and that he can grant the faculty to priests to confer the sacrament. (See The Order of Confirmation #18). Below is a suggested message from Bishop Bambera – which you are encouraged to incorporate in some manner in the homily for the celebration of Confirmation this year.*

Dear Confirmandi, Parents, Godparents, Sponsors – and all the faithful who are gathered here today for this special celebration -- “Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” (Romans 1:7b)

It is most appropriate to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on the Solemnity of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was first poured forth upon Mary and the Apostles. Throughout history the Bishops, who are the successors of the Apostles, have handed on to the baptized the special gift of the Holy Spirit, either by their own laying on of hands and anointing or by delegating priests as special ministers of this sacrament.

Sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and sent just like the first followers of Jesus, may you go forth into the world as true witnesses of Jesus, having the courage to live your faith and to bring the hope and love of Christianity to a world that so desperately needs this message and this experience.

As you make this transition - from completing your initiation into the Christian life through this great sacrament – to living even more fully as a disciple of Christ in every aspect of your life - please be assured of my prayers for you, as well as my deep gratitude to you and to all those members of your family and faith community who have supported your journey thus far.

Today we pledge to continue to accompany you and to invite you into active participation in the mission of Christ entrusted to all of us together.

Faithfully yours in Christ,  
Bishop Joseph Bambera