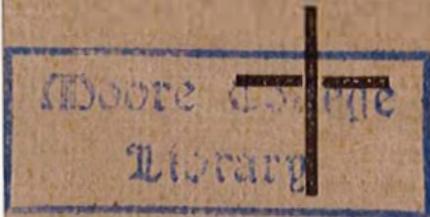


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NOTES ON CONFIRMATION.

OR THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

UPON THOSE THAT ARE

BAPTISED.

For Use in the Parish of Emmaville.

d. d. St. A. res, Stalk field

Prayer for Daily Use Before Confirmation.

O LORD JESUS, Who hath promised Thy Holy Spirit to those who ask Thee, grant to me such a dower of Thy Spirit that I may come in penitence and faith to the Sacramental rite of Confirmation, and there, being strengthened by the sevenfold gift of the Holy Spirit, may go forward in the way that leadeth unto everlasting life, through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

What is Confirmation ? It is coming to God for the sevenfold gift of the Holy Spirit. To receive this Gift you need to be prepared.

Preparation Consists of Two Parts.

(1) **Preparation of The Heart**, which consists of devotion, and develops patience and faith. Devotion is (a) Prayer and (b) Meditation. Use prayer for preparation and take your Bible, and kneel down and ask God and the Holy Spirit to enlighten you. Then read a passage of the Bible, carefully and think over it. Commence with St. John I.

(2) **Preparation of the Mind**, consists of instruction and learning about God and your Church.

You will notice Confirmation has a second name. The second is a Bible name. Confirmation is really a very ancient service, so in coming to receive it you are not coming to receive a new rite, but one which is as old as the church. One received by people for the last 19 centuries. There are two clear accounts of the service of the LAYING ON OF HANDS in the Acts of the Apostles. Read Acts VIII. verses 5, 6, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, and Acts XIX, 1, 7. In the first you will read of St. Phillip the Deacon baptizing and St. Peter and St. John coming down to confirm or lay on hands. In the second St. Paul confirms at Ephesus.

You will ask, "What do I do at Confirmation?" You openly before God and His Church, confirm, ratify and accept the three-

fold promise and vow made in your name at your baptism.

“What is done to me?” God gives you the gift of the Holy Spirit, and so confirms or strengthens you. He also makes sure to you the privileges He promised you when you were baptized. They are three.

(1) A Member of Christ. (2) A Child of God. (3) An inheritor of the Kingdom of Heaven.

(1) A Member of Christ means : You belong to God and get your life and strength from Him. Jesus says, “I am the vine, ye are the branches.” Read St. John XV, 1—9. But remember limbs and members sometimes become injured and useless. Take care you are an active, useful member of Christ.

(2) You are the Child of God, because He made you, and you were born anew in baptism. God loves you and provides for you, and thus you call Him Father.

(3) An Inheritor of the Kingdom of Heaven. This kingdom begins here on earth; that is the part you have now, and it consists in the advantages you have in the Church. The full possession will come hereafter, when the Kingdom is perfected and you reach Heaven itself.

The three-fold promise and vow made in your name at your baptism.

First : That I should renounce the Devil and all his works, etc.

Second : That I should believe all the Articles of the Christian Faith.

Thirdly : That I should keep God's Holy Will and Commandments.

Now look in in the Service of Public Baptism of Infants, at the questions put to those who brought you to Baptism and the answers they made.

Look at the answer to the third question in the Catechism. Look at the question the Bishop puts to you in the Confirmation Service. It begins : DO YOU HERE IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD . . .

Meanings of the Words Used in Catechism.

Godfathers and Godmothers are those who undertook at your Baptism to train you for God.

Inheritor is one who will some day have a full possession but has part of it now.

Promise and Vow means an agreement with men, and an agreement with God.

Renounce means to fight against so as to give up.

Evil, means the prince of evil spirits, or the power of evil.

Pemps and Vanities : Outward show and display of the world, which can give no lasting pleasure.

Sinful Lusts : Strong desires in us to do wrong.

The Articles of the Christian Faith are the clauses of the Creed. We must believe all the Creed.

The First Part of the Threefold Promise and Vow means to fight against so as to give up all the acts of sin you are tempted to do. To give up all the acts of sin you are tempted to do by other people or outside things. Also to give up the acts of sin which come from suggestions of your own hearts. These latter are, gluttony, intemperance, sloth, impurity. They are the abuse of strong desires which are right if properly controlled.

The Second Part means that you are to believe the teaching of the Creed.

This is shortly what it means :

Jesus means Saviour. Christ means the Anointed One. Jesus was the name of our Lord. Christ was His title. The Virgin Mary was a holy Jewish maiden who, though of humble position, was a descendant of King David. Pontius Pilate was the Roman Governor of Judea. Crucified means put to death by nailing on a cross. This was the Roman way of putting to death instead of hanging. Descended into Hell means that Jesus went down to Hades, the place of departed spirits who were waiting for the Judgment Day. Another name is Paradise. Here it does not mean the place of Punishment. The Holy Ghost is the Holy Spirit or Comforter, or the third person of the Holy Trinity.

THE HOLY CATHOLIC CHURCH

Is the Universal Church of Christ throughout the world wherein the pure word of God is preached and the Sacraments administered. The Ministers of the Catholic Church are Bishops, Priests and Deacons. These three orders of ministers have been in the church from earliest times. The Bishops rule the church, ordain ministers and confirm. The Priests administer the sacraments and preach the Word of God. The Deacons assist the Priest in his offices. The Church of England to which you belong is the English branch of the Catholic Church. Another branch is the Roman Catholic, and another is the Greek Church. Do not confuse Catholic with Roman Catholic. You belong to, believe in and pray for the Catholic Church. You should always pray that the Catholic Church throughout the world might one day be united. Our branch of the Catholic Church has existed in England for centuries. The Church of England did not commence in the reign of Henry VIII., nor did it commence in 597 A.D., when St. Augustine landed in Kent. It was in England many years before, in Cornwall and Wales and up at Iona in the N.E. corner of England, and was then called the Catholic Church of the British people. Your church has an ancient history, be proud of it; but always try and realize other branches of the Catholic Church also have done, and are doing the work of Christ and honor them for it.

The Communion of Saints means the union

that exists between all baptised people here on earth and those who are in Paradise and in Heaven. It teaches you not to be lonely, and to remember the fellowship you have with those who have gone before. **The Forgiveness of Sins** is very real, and is something all need. To gain forgiveness there must be repentance—that is real sorrow for what has been done that is wrong, or what has been left undone that we should have done. If you are troubled about anything like this, have a talk with your clergyman and ask his advice and help. Ask God to forgive you, believing that He loves you, and you can be sure of forgiveness.

The Resurrection of The Body means that in the last great Day of Judgment you will rise again, and have a body, not this present one, but a new spiritual one. Read 1 Corinthians XV., 35—57. **The Life Everlasting** means that you will live for ever if you have been faithful in this life. "This is life eternal to know Thee the only true God and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent," says Jesus.

The Third Part of the Threefold Promise and Vow—To keep God's Holy Will and Commandments : That is to do what God wishes as well as what He commands. The ten commandments were written to suit times different to our own. It would be impossible for us to keep them literally, but we should keep them in the spirit. Jesus Christ summed up all the law and the prophets in two great commandments—(1) Love of God. (2) Love of neighbour.

If we keep these two we must keep the other ten because they embrace them. Read carefully through your duty towards God and your duty towards your neighbour in the Catechism.

The Sacraments : There are two generally necessary—that is, necessary for everyone, namely,—

Baptism and the Lord's Supper. These are called Gospel Sacraments, because they are expressly commanded in the Gospel by Christ. Read Matt. 28, 19—20. Luke 22, 19. A sacrament is a sign, a means and a pledge of a spiritual gift. Water and the Name of the Holy Trinity are the sign, the means and the pledge of the incoming of the Holy Spirit, which regenerates or makes the baptized person born anew. Bread and Wine consecrated by the words of Jesus are the "sign," the "means" and the "pledge" of the Body and Blood of Christ which are received by Faith. By this means our souls are fed and strengthened by spiritual food as our bodies are by natural food. Read St. John VI., 53—58.

To come to the Lord's Supper. We need sorrow for our sins. Endeavour to live better. Faith in Christ's death, and the spirit of love towards others.

There are three main Bible names for the service, and each conveys a special truth concerning the service.

(1) The Lord's Supper (see 1 Cor. XI, 20), teaches it is a Spiritual Feast.

(2) The Holy Commission (see 1. Cor. X, 16)—a union with Christ and our Fellow-men.

(3) The Holy Eucharist (see 1. Cor. XIV, 16)—a Thanksgiving.

All three imply commemoration, intercession and adoration.

There are five minor sacraments or rites of the Church—

(1) Confirmation.

(2) Holy Matrimony.

(3) Ordination.

(4) Penance.

(5) Holy Unction.

These have been practised in the Church since the times of the Apostles.

These are only notes to help in your preparation for Confirmation. There are many other things you should know about your Church and its teaching which it is hoped you will endeavour to learn.

