

Why I Am Catholic

The Sacrament of Confirmation.

"By the Sacrament of Confirmation, [the baptized] are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obligated to spread and defend the faith by word and deed." (1285, *Catechism of the Catholic Church*)

In the early church, Confirmation and Baptism were combined, forming a "double sacrament," in the words of St. Cyprian. The growth of the Church "often prevented the bishop from being present at all baptismal celebrations. In the West the desire to reserve the completion of Baptism to the bishop caused the temporal separation of the two sacraments." (1290)

St. Ambrose writes: "Recall then that you have received the spiritual seal, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence, the spirit of holy fear in God's presence. Guard what you have received." (1303)