



Dear Parents,

November 13, 2019

Last evening Sister Marie Amata gave a wonderful presentation to the 5th grade parents about the graces of Confirmation. (As you may or may not know, 5<sup>th</sup> grade is the year in which the St. James children prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.) Below, I copied some of Sister's points for you to ponder. You may find it encouraging to remember the gifts and fruits which you, as confirmed Catholics, already possess. If you have not been confirmed, knowing what you could receive might spur you on to seek this powerful Sacrament. Talk to Father Major or Father Daro!

If you have been confirmed:

- You have a beautiful permanent seal on your soul, which proclaims that you belong to God. You are His!
- You are consecrated, precious, and holy.
- You have deepened in the reality of being a beloved son or daughter of the Father.
- You are united more closely to Jesus and His mission of bringing souls to know and love God and spend eternity with Him in heaven.
- You have wisdom. You have knowledge. You have understanding. You have right judgment. You have fortitude. You have piety. You have a holy fear of the Lord. (Gifts of the Holy Spirit.)
- You have charity. You have joy. You have peace. You have patience. You have kindness. You have goodness. You have generosity. You have gentleness. You have faithfulness. You have modesty. You have self-control. You have chastity. (Fruits of the Holy Spirit.)
- You have been given a special strength to spread and defend the faith – in both words and actions – as a real witness of Christ and to never be ashamed of Jesus' Cross.

How beautiful are the graces and gifts we received at Confirmation! Some of them remain fully, no matter what our actions and choices. For example, once confirmed we always have the indelible seal on our souls. This seal declares, to our eternal glory in Heaven or to our eternal shame in Hell, that we are God's child. Other gifts, like muscles, are strengthened or weakened depending upon our use. If we practice gentleness, or chastity, or joy the Holy Spirit increases these qualities until we actually become gentle, and chaste and joyful. If we do not practice generosity, or wisdom, modesty, they remain but are idle like an unused gift sitting on a duty shelf.

What should you do if you have let some of these gifts weaken or remain unused? Call upon the Holy Spirit and He will help you activate them even to an astounding degree. When you make the effort, the Holy Spirit gives the grace.

Sister concluded her talk by offering everyone the following prayer from St. Augustine:

Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, That my thoughts may all be holy. Act in me, O Holy Spirit, That my work, too, may be holy. Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, That I love but what is holy. Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, To defend all that is holy. Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit, That I always may be holy.

If we were to pray this sincerely and regularly we would advance quickly in greatness before God, for the Holy Spirit dwells and acts where He is invited and welcome.

In the Heart of Christ the King,

Sister Mary Alma, C.K.

**Prayer to Saint James** St. James the Greater, patron of our school, enkindle in our hearts the same burning love you had for our Lord. May we answer His call, as you did, to be “fishers of men”. May we possess your zeal for Christ, a love that led you to be the first Apostle to die for the faith. Protect, direct and bless our school family. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**See St. James Children on and Sisters on Video:** Open this link to see some of the St. James School children on video and to learn a little more about the School Sisters of Christ the King.

<http://www.cksisters.org/Pages/community.aspx> A videographer recently filmed ***A Day in the Life of Sister Marie Amata***. Of course, St. James children featured strongly as well as the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders class pet, Corbin the frog!

**Coats and Winter Clothing:** Winter is coming soon. If your child needs a winter coat or gloves, hats, mittens or socks, please let Sister Mary Alma know. We have some brand new items to give away and access to more. (402) 826-2318.

**Under the Tree:** If you need some help with purchasing Christmas gifts for your children, please let the school know. (402) 826-2318. The Crete Police offers a program to help parents provide clothing and gifts for their children during the Christmas season. If you qualify for free school lunches, a flier is being sent home to you today.

**SCRIP:** SCRIP is a great fundraiser for St. James School and is easy to do on your part. Please consider using SCRIP for all your shopping needs. We need more volunteers to sell SCRIP after Mass. Please call the office if you are interested in selling. It is not difficult and we will train you in what to do. (402) 826-2318

**Kiss the Cow:** Mrs. Tranmer was the winner of the ***Kiss the Cow*** fundraiser for Mary’s Meals! The children collected over \$200.00. Being the lucky winner, Mrs. Tranmer gave a real live cow from the Wissenburg farm a red-lipstick kiss on the nose to the cheers of all the children. Thank you for helping your children be generous to those in need and thank you, Mrs. Tranmer for being such a good sport!

**School Closings:** St. James School will follow the Crete Public Schools for school closings and late start days due to dangerous weather conditions. Call School Closing (402) 826-7890 or, in Spanish, School Closing: (402) 826-7888. If the message says that Crete Public Schools are closed or have a late start due to inclement weather, know that the same is true for St. James School. Our announcement will also be on KLKN-TV Channel 8 and KOLN.KGIN TV Channel 10/11.

**No School:** There will be **no school** on November 27- 29 due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

### **Coming Home Today in the Communication Envelope:**

Scrip Order form  
Tuition Envelope  
Crete Wrestling Club Flier