

Chapter 3

The Sacrament of Confirmation

[*The Sacrament of Confirmation* by Jacques Dumont]

In this assignment, students will meditate on Pentecost, one of the theological foundations for the sacrament of confirmation. After a brief lectio divina, they will answer reflection questions upon the role of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Begin by reading Acts 2:1-4, 14, 17-21 in a “lectio divina” slowly and meditatively. Next, share the following:

The prophet Joel, who wrote his prophecies several hundred years before Jesus was born, foretold that one day God would reveal himself to the whole world, to everyone, regardless of where they are from or what they look like or how old they are. Joel foretold, the Holy Spirit we have received in Baptism and Confirmation speaks to us, because he lives in our hearts. He inspires us, with “visions” and “dreams” and knowledge that can change us and those around us and our world. But even people who haven’t received baptism or confirmation can still hear the voice of God encouraging them, because the Holy Spirit speaks to everyone and desires to dwell in them through those sacraments.

Read the passage a second time, slowly and meditatively, giving God’s Word space to reach the hearts of those who listen. Finally, have the students write reflections to the questions on the Lectio Divina Script.

Lectio Divina Script

1. Who is a saint who acted with “vision,” that is, he or she did something that seemed inspired and extraordinary?

2. Who is someone you know who acted in the same way?

3. Tell about a time when you felt that God was asking you to do something? It could be something unusual, difficult, or extraordinary – but it also might be something from your everyday life where you felt “inspired” to act in a certain way.

4. Take a close look at the children being confirmed in Jacques Dumont’s painting. Write a short postscript to the story. Tell how you imagine their lives taking shape after receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.