

Pastoral Reflection

4.16.23 Second Sunday of Easter (Confirmation Sunday)

“They devoted themselves to the teachings of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers... All who believed were together and had all things in common... Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple area and to breaking bread in their homes.”

The readings for today summarize something of the significant commitment our Confirmandi are taking on today in their Sacrament of Confirmation. Their classes that they have undergone in preparation for this Sacrament purposefully required their own assent, engagement, preparation, and participation. No longer was all communication going through their parents or guardians, but it was up to each of them to give their own “yes.”

Notably, the scriptural commitment we read today does not culminate with following the teachings of Jesus modelled by the apostles, but rather it includes our communal obligations to those around us, to “believe together” and to “break bread” together. This is why active and continued participation in our faith community is so important: while prayer draws us deeper, community stretches us out to each other—and thus, to Christ-in-others.

It is fitting in some ways, and ironic in others, that traditionally in the Catholic Church this Sacrament of Confirmation occurs right in the early swells of adolescence, an often-tumultuous stage that finds everything from our bodies, our relationships, our thoughts and beliefs, even our own sense of self in flux. For through Confirmation, a new self emerges with a new name, a new identity, a new commitment to both stretching and deepening in our faith and in our bonds with God through one another.

As we reflect on the commitments that we have made, let us allow ourselves to be sent forth along with those newly Confirmed into our community and into the world, to devote ourselves to the teachings of the apostles, to pray, and to break bread with one another.

David Gaillardetz