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**17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary  
Time  
July 29-30, 2017**

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Questions, Comments Suggestions?  
Contact Kristina [kdeneve@rcchawaii.org](mailto:kdeneve@rcchawaii.org) or  
808-203-6767

## **Living Catholic in the 808: Confirmation is Not Us Confirming Our Faith**

Reflections on the Original Order  
Diocese of Honolulu  
Q: [kdeneve@rcchawaii.org](mailto:kdeneve@rcchawaii.org)

Sometimes Catholics approach Confirmation like a graduation, saying, “I made my Confirmation,” as if it is something that they earned after completing X number of service hours or attending Y percentage of Confirmation classes. But, that is not what Confirmation means.

We the baptized do not “confirm” our faith in the sacrament of Confirmation. Rather, it is God who confirms us in the free gift of our faith: “He has put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee” Ephesians 1:13, 4:30

Pope Francis addressed this point in his general audience of Jan. 29, 2014: “Confirmation, like every sacrament, is not the work of men but of God, who cares for our lives in such a manner as to mold us in the image of his Son, to make us capable of loving like him. God does it by infusing in us his Holy Spirit, whose action pervades the whole person and his/her entire life.”

Soon, seven year-olds who were baptized as infants will be confirmed prior to receiving First Communion. (When this will happen depends on your parish plan.) God will perfect in them the grace received at Baptism, perfect in them the common priesthood of all the faithful (Catechism of the Catholic Church, Nos. 1305 and 1316).