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25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary  
Time  
September 23-24, 2017

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## Living Catholic in the 808: For the Apostles, didn't Confirmation Come AFTER 1<sup>st</sup> Communion?

By: Fr. Mark Gantley  
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Last week I began answering a question from one of our parishioners: didn't Confirmation come third in order for the Apostles, since they experienced Pentecost/Confirmation AFTER the Last Supper, aka, First Communion?

What a great question! In terms of biblical events, when you look at Jesus' baptism in the Jordan by St. John the Baptist, you see it connected not just to Baptism but also to Confirmation. Jesus is baptized in water and then when he comes out of the water, the Holy Spirit comes down upon him like a dove and the voice of God the Father is heard (God the Father **confirms** Jesus' baptism by the gift of the Spirit and his words). Here you see the intimate connection between Baptism and Confirmation.

You are correct to associate Confirmation with Pentecost as well. But here the connection is between the death and resurrection of Jesus (which we experience in Baptism and which we celebrate at Easter) and the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost (which we experience in Confirmation and which we celebrate on the 50th and last day of the Easter season). Baptism begins the Easter season, and Confirmation concludes the Easter season. Again, the intimate connection between Baptism and Confirmation is seen.

I'll continue expanding on this issue in one final way next week.

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