



DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH THE BISHOP'S OFFICE



Confirmation Homily
Most Rev. Kevin W. Vann, J.C.D., D.D.
Diocese of Fort Worth

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Friends all gathered on this Second Sunday of Easter.

Queridos Hermanos Y Hermanas en Cristo, Amigos todos reunidos en este Segundo Domingo de Pascua.

Today is the second Sunday of Easter, and it is a very special and important day for all of us gathered here, for several reasons: First of all, we are celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation for our young people and, they will be receiving the Holy Spirit on the very same day that Jesus said to the Apostles in the Upper Room... "Do not be afraid... Receive the Holy Spirit." In a very real way, all of us here are gathered with the Apostles in the upper room, and we are waiting for Him to come to us, and say "Receive the Holy Spirit!"

Hoy es el Segundo Domingo de Pascua, es un día muy especial e importante para todos aquí reunidos, por varias razones: Primeramente, celebramos el Sacramento de Confirmación para nuestra juventud y ellos recibirán el Espíritu Santo en el mismo día en cual Jesús les dijo a los Apóstoles en la sala de arriba...no teman... Reciban el Santo Espíritu. De manera muy real nosotros aquí estamos reunidos con los Apóstoles en esa sala, y estamos esperando que El venga a nosotros, y nos diga "Recibe el Espíritu Santo."

For the entire Church, all the Family of God, this very day in Rome, Pope John Paul II is being declared "Blessed", and he is now on the path to be declared a Saint. Remember on the day of his funeral, six years ago now, so many said "Santo Subito!" We are today seeing that dream and desire expressed so clearly in St. Peter's Square now becoming a fact. It is truly part of the plan of God that our young people, whom Pope John Paul II loved so much, are being confirmed on the same day that he is officially declared "Blessed!" I have been following this on my "Web Application" on the Vatican Web Site. [Show the iPad.]

[Q & A about the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the definition of the Sacrament of Confirmation]

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Para toda la familia de Dios, para toda la Santa Madre Iglesia, hoy mismo en Roma a el Papa Juan Paulo Segundo se le declara Bendito, y está en proceso de ser declarado “Santo”. Recuerdan que en el día de su funeral, hace ya 6 años, muchos decían “Pronto será Santo”.

Vemos hoy que ese sueño y deseo expresado tan claramente in la Plaza de San Pedro hace 6 años se convierte en realidad. Es verdaderamente el plan de Dios que nuestra juventud, a quienes el Papa Juan Pablo Segundo tanto amaba, están siendo confirmados en el mismo día en cual él es declarado “Bendito, Bendecido”. He estado siguiendo esto en el sitio en la red del Vaticano... ven... (Muestro el iPad)

How often in our lives are we unsure or uncertain or afraid. The gifts of the Holy Spirit, the same Holy Spirit that the Risen Lord gave to the Apostles, is being given to our young people this evening, so that you may live in peace, so that you do not have to be afraid. How many times did Jesus say "Do not be afraid?" How many times did Pope John Paul II say "Do not be afraid?"

Cuántas veces, muy seguido en nuestras vidas nos sentimos inseguros, o temerosos. Los regalos de Espirito Santo, el mismo Espirito Santo que el Señor Resucitado les dio a los apóstoles, es dado a nuestros jóvenes esta noche/tarde, para que vivan en paz, para que no tengan miedo. ¿Cuántas veces nos dijo Jesús “no teman? ¿Cuántas veces nos dijo el Papa Juan Pable “no teman?”

So “Do not be afraid”, because we are called to believe. All of us have had doubts and struggles like St. Thomas. But, let us never forget that the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit are yours, are ours this day.

You are being confirmed tonight because someone who loved you---parents, grandparents, and sponsors, wanted you to have the gift of Faith! Now, it is your turn this evening, to receive that gift of Faith for yourself, and then to share it with others, to pass it on, at the time this evening that you become fully part of the Family of God, of the Body of Christ. This is for you, all of the days of your life, to guide you through the uncertainties of life and into the future that the Lord wishes for all of you.

Estas recibiendo la confirmación porque alguien de amo—tus padres, abuelos, y padrinos, deseaban que tu recibieras el regalo de Fe. Ahora, te toca a ti esta noche, recibir ese regalo de Fe para ti, para que luego lo compartas con los demás. Es para todos los días de tu vida, para que te guíes a través de la incertidumbre de la vida hacia el futuro que el Señor desea para todos Ustedes.

This evening, “Receive the Holy Spirit” and “Do not be afraid,” for the peace of the Lord is yours... do not be unbelieving, but believe! And, Pope John Paul II prays for you especially on this day, and for all of us, as he said on that October day years ago:

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**Esta noche, recibe el Espirito Santo...no temas, la paz del Señor es tuya...no seas incrédulo, mas cree!
Y Juan Pable II ora por ti de manera especial este día, y por todos nosotros al decirte a ti y a todos
nosotros, como dijo en aquel día de Octubre hace anos:**

"Open wide the doors to Christ...do not be afraid."

“Abre las puertas a Cristo... y no temas”

+ Bishop Kevin Vann

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