

## Confirmation – St. Walburge’s Shrine, 27<sup>th</sup> September 2015

(Apoc. 21:2-5. Luke 19:1-10)



“Zacchaeus, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today.” The Lord Jesus says the same to you who have just been Confirmed. He wants to be with you, to dwell in you, to make you his temple. He has shared his Holy Spirit with you to make you ever more a son or daughter of God, an adoption which began at your baptism. Zacchaeus became a different person when Jesus entered his house; he changed his way of life, paid back those he defrauded and made a very generous offering to the poor. Will you allow Jesus through today’s anointing with the Holy Spirit to change your life and make you a different person?

The gift of the Holy Spirit made all the difference to Peter and his fellow-disciples. After the death of Jesus they were timid and afraid, even ashamed because they had deserted the Lord Jesus in his hour of need. The descent of the promised Holy Spirit at Pentecost transformed them from frightened people into witnesses of Christ, and they told the world the story that the crucified One, now risen, was truly the Son of God. The Holy Spirit gave them courage and so much else. Never again would they be embarrassed to be called followers of Christ, in fact they would prefer to die rather than deny him.

You today have become sharers in that same Holy Spirit. Now you have a job of work to do, and that is to be witnesses to Christ wherever you find yourself. You are as it were soldiers in his service, and he depends on your loyalty and bravery. He depends on you to be faithful and to stand up for him, and never be afraid to say I am a Catholic and a Christian. He told his Apostles before his ascension into heaven, “*You will be my witnesses to the end of the earth.*” Each one of you is to be part of that story from today onwards.

79 years ago this magnificent church of St. Walburge was consecrated as a house of God, dedicated for prayer and worship, above all the celebration of Holy Mass. We are in a holy place, God’s dwelling, and the home of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Do not forget that each one of you is the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit, or as St. Paul would say, his temples. Ensure that you remain worthy dwellings of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of the Father and the Son. *Amen.*

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