

My dear Confirmands!

On the festive day of your Confirmation I bid you a heartfelt welcome at the Lord's altar. For a long time already you have been preparing yourselves for this day. Now you are delighted to experience this outstanding day together with your parents and teachers as well as a festive congregation.

For your Confirmation I dedicate to you the Word found in **Hebrews 11:6**:

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

So far you have been introduced to the essence of our faith by your parents. Through them as well as your teachers in the Church you have been taught accordingly. Today you are permitted to personally assume the responsibility for your life of faith.

From the aforementioned Bible text it becomes clear that our faith is a demanding responsibility which fills our life. And since you want to experience the Day of Christ's Return with joy, it is necessary to prepare yourselves accordingly. This occurs through faith.

It pleases our Heavenly Father when you

- believe and have faith in the Almighty God, in His Son, and in the Holy Spirit as well as in those whom the Lord Jesus has sent,
- hold Jesus' sacrifice and merit in high esteem,
- allow the powers of the Sacraments to have an effect on you,
- stir up the gifts of the Holy Spirit within you, and
- participate and help along in His wonderful Work of salvation to the extent possible for you.

Your continuing education and your vocation will call for much effort on your part. However it is worth the effort because the reward includes securing your earthly existence.

Securing your eternal life has an even far greater significance. In a godly sense eternal life is everlasting warmth and security with the Father and the Son, eternal joy, eternal happiness, and eternal peace. Is this not worthwhile?

God has attached the attainment of this wonderful goal to a living faith which is in keeping with the times. This faith does not remain a theory, but rather is able to develop effectively in any situation in life.

In spite of all efforts and endeavours you will not be without temptation. Strength and energy will also be required in order to promote and preserve your faith to the very end. You have the tremendous good fortune of continually being able to come under God's Word and grace. These divine gifts will give you the strength to successfully resist all obstacles which would like to degrade your precious apostolic faith. I encourage you with all my heart: Make your way into the Lord's house time and time again. There you will always be welcome.

I wish you a future that is richly blessed and, in the connection with all Apostles of the world, I greet you most warmly

Yours

R. Fehr