



*Confirmations at Immaculate Conception Church*

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

On April 20 the Sacrament of Confirmation was administered at St. Joseph’s Novitiate in Round Top, NY, and at Immaculate Conception Church in Norwood, OH. Nearly 100 people were confirmed, thereby receiving the Holy Ghost in a special way to enable them more readily to profess their Faith as strong and perfect Catholics and soldiers of Jesus Christ.

Confirmation is a most important sacrament in this day and age. Baptism cleanses us from original sin, infuses sanctifying grace into our souls, makes us Christians, children of God, and heirs of Heaven. However, even after baptism the effects of original sin remain in our fallen human nature. We thus have a darkened understanding, a weakened will, and a strong inclination to evil, and we have to struggle against these effects daily. Besides this, the world and its allurements

constantly call to us, and the devil goes about, as St. Peter writes in his first Epistle, like a roaring lion seeking to devour us by his temptations. Commenting on this, one priest writes, “In this world we will be tempted by our past habits, by the pagan, careless world around us; we will be inclined at times to miss Mass, to eat meat on Friday, to violate God’s laws regarding chastity. At times it will be very difficult to preserve our souls in the state of grace. But God has given us a way to strengthen ourselves for the combat, and that way is the Sacrament of Confirmation.” Confirmation increases sanctifying grace, enlightens our darkened understanding, strengthens our will, and inclines us to virtue. This sacrament thus helps us to preserve the



*Anointing the Forehead with Chrism*