



VERMILION CATHOLIC
a legacy of Mount Carmel

A Happy New Year to our VC families!

Jan 29, 2025

I pray you didn't fare too poorly in the Sneauxmageddon and that y'all enjoyed the unique opportunities it afforded. I certainly enjoyed the many pictures and videos of our community playing in the snow! It's been quite a month, so here's a very late January Message. I'd like to touch on something that many people may not understand: Christian Maturity and Confirmation.

Sadly, many people never move beyond their childhood faith. So many people who lose faith as adults do so because they are facing 12th grade (or higher!) problems with 2nd grade theology. Even being in Catholic School the entire time does not guarantee that a person moves into *mature* faith.

Christian maturity, like maturity in general, is a combination of knowledge, capabilities, experience, habits, and responsibilities. Often a person with immature faith will have a conversion experience that prompts them to "go deeper" and look for "what comes next." This often causes people to look for the next goal, the next event to make their faith stronger. This isn't bad, but there's a pitfall there. Christian maturity isn't a thing you arrive at via a major event. It's a way of life, a gradual journey of integrating the truth of Jesus Christ into every aspect of life.

This is one reason we moved Confirmation down to a younger age. For a long time, people treated Confirmation like an *arrival at maturity* when in reality it is the *beginning of maturity*. If Baptism is like birth, then Confirmation is more like *puberty*. Puberty is not something we prepare for and then receive when we're ready. It's something that that is *given to us* which then *enables us to become mature*. So Confirmation is not something we earn. It is the Sacrament that instills in us the potential to become mature, a deposit of grace that we should use in order to become mature Christians. Obviously we want the children who receive it to have some preparation and understanding, but the truth is that no one is perfectly "ready" for the sacrament just as no one is perfectly ready for puberty.

Parents, I urge you to see the sacraments we offer not as goalposts, but as resources to assist your children in becoming the mature, joyful Christians they're meant to be. Help them to live a Catholic lifestyle by striving to live a Catholic lifestyle yourselves.

As always, thank you for being part of our VC family and please let me know if there's anything you need from me."

In Christ,

Father Alexander M. Albert,
Pastor, Vermilion Catholic, a legacy of Mount Carmel
St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

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