5. Why Did Jesus Have to Die? 36
   5.1 What did Jesus actually suffer? 37
   5.2 The killer punch 40
   5.3 What did Jesus himself mean by his death? 41
   5.4 A female volleyball player, a Franciscan monk and a man who refused to bow to Hitler 41
   5.5 In place of others—a mystery 44

6. The Comeback of Jesus—or the Story of the Resurrection 46
   6.1 The destruction of a legend 47
   6.2 Let’s get out of here! 48
   6.3 A world religion is born 49
   6.4 A twinge of doubt—a “flash mob” of God? 51
   6.5 Scenes from a comeback 53
   6.6 And what has the comeback by Jesus got to do with us? 55

7. In Search of the Holy Spirit 56
   7.1 The most sensible religion in the world 57
   7.2 One, two or three? Or what? 57
   7.3 The great Unknown 58
   7.4 The Holy Spirit and your heart—Pentecost for you and me as well 59
   7.5 Why nothing seems to satisfy my heart 60
   7.6 Make me beautiful within 61
   7.7 The fruits of the Holy Spirit 63

8. Prayer—Staying in Touch with the Living God 68
   8.1 What is prayer? 69
   8.2 Learning to pray with Mother Teresa 69
   8.3 A Little School of Prayer 71
   8.4 The two most important prayers in the world 75
9. The Church—a Home for You and Me 78
9.1 The Church is not a club for the perfect 79
9.2 If you want to understand the mystery of the Church 80
9.3 You are the body of Christ 81
9.4 You are the temple of the Holy Spirit 82
9.5 You are the People of God 83
9.6 A little bit of organization 83

10. Eucharist—the Generosity of God 86
10.1 Little gifts to nurture friendship? 88
10.2 God—a master of giving 89
10.3 How Jesus gave himself to us 90
10.4 The five “mistakes” of Jesus 91
10.5 What do we get out of it? 94
10.6 A smuggler’s story 95

11. Update! Confession! 96
11.1 The thing that messes you up 97
11.2 How God gives us the chance of a new beginning 98
11.3 What makes a good confession? 98
11.4 What sort of things should I confess then? 99

12. What Happens in Confirmation? 102
The rite, and what happens in it 103

Sources 110
Photographs 111
Eucharist— the Generosity of God
Many young people don’t like going to Holy Mass. Some of them say, “It’s the wrong type of music, and they’re the wrong type of people!” Others simply say, “I find it all completely boring.” And they prefer just to stay in bed—especially since very often their parents themselves don’t bother to go to Holy Mass. Read up in the YOUCAT sometime about the “kiss duty” business! (page 131)

1. As a child I was made to wash.
2. People who keep on washing are just hypocrites, who think they are cleaner than other people.
3. There are so many different sorts of soap. How am I supposed to know which is the best one for me?
4. All the water companies are simply after our money.
5. I’ve tried washing from time to time, but it was always so boring, and always the same.
6. It’s always so cold and uninviting in the bathroom.
7. I do wash at Christmas and Easter. Surely that’s enough?
8. None of my friends seems to think it’s necessary to wash.
9. I really don’t have time to wash.
10. Maybe I’ll wash one day, when I get older.

So we need to have some very good arguments if we are going to put this appointment right at the top of our to-do list.
You reply:

**Amen.**

This means something like:

Yes, so be it. I want this.
I agree to this.

The bishop then says:

**Peace be with you.**

The newly confirmed responds:

**And with your spirit.**

So now you are confirmed.

After this, a number of prayers (intercessions) are offered for the newly confirmed, their parents and sponsors, for the whole Church and for all mankind. But the crucial point is the seal of the Holy Spirit on your forehead. At the World Youth Day in Sydney, Pope Benedict explained to the young people there what it means to receive this sign on your forehead:
108

109

Make the most of it! God is with you.

What does it mean to receive the “seal” of the Holy Spirit? It means being indelibly marked, inalterably changed, a new creation. For those who have received this gift, nothing can ever be the same! Being “baptized” in the one Spirit means being set on fire with the love of God. Being “given to drink” of the Spirit means being refreshed by the beauty of the Lord’s plan for us and for the world, and becoming in turn a source of spiritual refreshment for others. Being “sealed with the Spirit” means not being afraid to stand up for Christ; it means letting the truth of the Gospel permeate the way we see, think, and act, as we work for the triumph of the civilization of love.

12. WHAT HAPPENS IN CONFIRMATION?

ORDER OF EVENTS

cf. 1 Corinthians 12:13
Sources

The examination of conscience is taken from the German pamphlet entitled *Sünde ist ... die Liebe leugnen* (Sin means ... denying love), edited by Bernhard Riedl, Archdiocese of Cologne 2008.


10 Reasons why I don’t wash (10 Gründe warum ich mich nicht wasche) from the *YOUCAT Youth Calendar 2013* (ed. Norbert Fink), Augsburg 2012.

Quotation in the section “The Church is not a club for the perfect”, taken from *Christ sein für Einsteiger* by Bernhard Meuser, Munich 2007.
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