



## A Learning Moment with Micah



Hi everyone, my name is Micah. In the last issue, my cousin told you about the Sacrament of Baptism. Do you remember how we learned that in baptism we wash away the old us and we wear the Lord Jesus Christ? Well another wonderful thing happens on the day we are baptized. Do you know what that is? We are anointed with oil. After we are baptized Abouna uses special oil called Chrism and makes the sign of the cross all over our bodies.



A long time ago our ancestors, Adam and Eve, sinned in the Garden of Eden. They sinned by disobeying God's commandment. When that happened the Lord kicked them out of the Garden and made sure they would never enter it again. Their punishment for sinning was death.

But our wonderful God did not allow for us to die. He gave us salvation and the first step is baptism, which cleans us from the sin committed by Adam and Eve.

Then God gave us something even more than cleaning us from the original sin.

God gave us the power of His Holy Spirit.



Our God did not leave us without help. When our Lord Jesus Christ went back to Heaven after he was crucified on the Cross, He told the disciples to wait for “The Promise of My Father.”



Do you know what that Promise was? The Promise is the Holy Spirit. The Lord God gives us His Holy Spirit that we may have more power than the devil and that we can beat him at his own game and not sin against God.

Do you remember the story?

On the very special day called Pentecost the Holy Spirit of God descended on the 12 apostles and the women that were with them in the Upper Room at St. Mark’s house.

Did you know that it was in this same Upper Room that the Last Supper was eaten? We will talk about it when we talk about the Sacrament of the Holy Communion in a later issue.



When the Holy Spirit came down on the apostles the whole house shook. It was as if there was a huge, massive earthquake.

That is how powerful the Holy Spirit is that comes from God.

The house moved, people lost their balance, and all of a sudden they all felt a great presence. It was the Holy Spirit of God



This very same presence comes down on each one of us when we are given the Holy Sacrament of Confirmation (which is also called Chrism).

After we are baptized, Abouna takes us and places us on a clean towel. Then he takes from the holy Chrism Oil and makes the sign of the Cross 36 different places on our bodies.





Very simply, the Lord consecrates or makes holy, our whole being for Him. Abouna makes the sign of the cross in the following way:

1. One on the head. (Lord consecrate my thoughts)
2. Seven signs of the cross on the two nostrils, the mouth, the ears, and the eyes . (Lord, consecrate my senses)
3. Two signs of the cross on the chest . (Lord, consecrate my heart)
4. Two signs of the cross on the back and spine. (Lord, consecrate my will)
5. Six signs of the cross on both arms, on all three joints. (Lord, consecrate my actions)
6. Six signs of the cross on both legs, on all three joints. (Lord, consecrate my way)



We can see that the Church is reminding us that when the Holy Spirit comes down it comes to sanctify (which means to make holy) our whole being. Our mind, our senses, our heart, our will, our actions and our way all become holy through this sacrament. During all our life we should keep ourselves holy and pure for the Lord.