

property of softening and strengthening; so the grace which we receive in Confirmation softens whatever is painful in the law of God, and strengthens us to undertake the observance of it with courage.

Q. Why is balm mixed with the oil?

A. To give us to understand, that as balm (which is a very sweet smelling juice) diffuses an agreeable odour and prevents corruption; so the grace of the Holy Ghost preserves us from the corruption of sin, and enables us to diffuse the good odour of Jesus Christ by our edifying behaviour.

Q. Why does the Bishop anoint the forehead of the person confirmed;

A. To teach him that he must not be ashamed of the Gospel and all its truths.

Q. Why is the unction made in the form of a cross?

A. To teach us that all the virtue of this sacrament is derived from the cross, the passion, and the death of Jesus Christ, and that we ought to glory in his cross.

Q. What is the meaning of the words which the Bishop uses, I sign thee, &c.?

A. They mean by the outward unction, made in the name of the Holy Trinity, the person confirmed receives the mark of a soldier of Jesus Christ, and strength to fight against and to conquer the enemies of his holy name.

Q. Why does the Bishop gently strike the cheek of the person whom he confirms?

A. To signify that the person confirmed must