

question which every pastor should know how to answer, if he would rightly prepare his candidates for Confirmation.

I.—THE SCRIPTURES.

1. First we turn to Holy Scripture. The Baptism of Jesus is the type of ours—so is his Confirmation. “Baptized in the river Jordan [writes Optatus*] by the hand of John the Baptist; the order of the sacred mysteries followed, and the Father completed what the Son had asked and the Spirit announced. The heavens were opened, and by the authority of the Father the spiritual oil immediately descended in the form of a dove . . . Whence He was called Christ.”

2. Again: when young children were brought to Jesus, He laid His hands upon them and blessed them, prefiguring the distinctive rite of Confirmation—the laying on of hands, whereby the sevenfold gifts were to be imparted to the children of the Church.

3. Once more: as by the outpouring of the Holy Ghost Jesus was prepared (according to His humanity) for the work which His Father had given Him to do, it was necessary that His disciples should be fortified in like manner for their appointed work;

*The renowned Bishop of Milevi in Namidia (now Algeria), who wrote A. D. 364.