

#### **4. 9: Sacrament of Initiation (Final WW2)**

The sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation helped Manuel have a positive disposition despite his pain and illness by bringing him closer to Jesus. He eventually felt the presence of Jesus speaking to him like a close friend and felt better. Every time he feels pain, he asks those near him to recite the moments of pain because it makes the pain go away. Also, praying the holy rosary would make him feel better. Because of this, I came to the realization that Jesus is crucial to our path back to Him and His Father because, through His atonement, teachings, hope, peace, and example, He empowers us to transform our lives, face our challenges, and proceed in faith. As a result, I feel like I can trust Jesus and talk to him about my joys, sorrows, and issues.

Manuel said, "I want to receive Jesus in my heart so that he can become my best friend forever. He will be my strength, my joy, and my cure." It caught my attention because even though he was too young to partake in the communion and wasn't feeling well, he still wanted to receive Jesus because he wanted to be united with Jesus, and that relationship would be his source of power, happiness, and healing. I came to realize that partaking in the holy communion signifies and deepens our relationship with Jesus and His Church.

As a Catholic and a student, I can practice my baptismal and confirmation promises as a "warrior of light" by giving thanks to the Lord for my Christian faith, which is a gift from God. Baptism and confirmation are something that is done to us rather than something that we do to ourselves. In response to Christ's instruction to go and baptize all people, it is given by church priests. Therefore, God's gift to us is where our confidence in him begins, and we must respond to that gift every day by being generous. And by that, I can renew that spirit of fidelity and the promises. I can also practice it by making moral decisions, sharing the word of God, and being truthful to him.