CHAPTER 19

Confirmation

Core Activity

Planning a Confirmation Ceremony

1. Begin your presentation on Confirmation with points taken from pages 203–204 of The Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth, Third Edition (CFH). Invite the students to jot down images that come to mind as you share those teachings about Confirmation.

2. Ask the students to share any words that struck them during the presentation. Continue on with the effects of Confirmation taken from pages 206–209 of the CFH. Ask the young people to comment on the effect of Confirmation that is most attractive to them.

3. If any of the students have received the Sacrament of Confirmation, ask them to share their own experience of its effects. Finish with information about the Rite of Confirmation from pages 210–211 of the CFH.

4. Divide the students into four groups. Tell them they are a planning team for an upcoming Confirmation liturgy and each group is taking a different role in the preparation process.

5. Give the following assignments to the groups, and provide the materials they need:
   • Group A is to design front and back covers of a program for Confirmation at the parish. Using the teaching about the Holy Spirit from pages 128–130 of the CFH, the group should sketch and refine its symbol or picture or phrase.
   • Group B should prepare a short presentation on the history of Confirmation. The group should use material from pages 205–206 of the CFH.
   • Group C has the task of writing the homily that the bishop could give at the Confirmation, using the effects of Confirmation on pages 206–209 of the CFH.
   • Group D is to create the program for the Confirmation, providing an order of service that includes music and major aspects of the liturgy. It should use the material about the Confirmation Rite on pages 210–211 of the CFH, the outline of the Mass in the “Catholic Beliefs and Practices” section of the CFH, and a hymnal.

6. If time remains, allow the students to share what they did in their small groups and to explain the choices they made. That presentation may need to wait for a future class.

(This activity is adapted from the TC: Liturgy and the Sacraments manual.)
Core Activity Extension

The Effects of Confirmation

As homework or as class work, instruct your students to read the characteristics of a confirmed person in the section “The Effects of Confirmation,” on pages 206–209 of the CFH. Whether or not your students have been confirmed, have them reflect on how their own attitudes measure up to the descriptions. Ask them to write their reflections on the four effects and turn them in to you. (This activity is adapted from the TC: Liturgy and the Sacraments manual.)

Additional Activities

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

1. Write the following belief statements, which are adapted from pages 130–132 of the CFH, on the board, on newsprint, or on an overhead:
   - I believe I see where the Spirit of God is at work.
   - I believe I comprehend how a person must live as a follower of Jesus.
   - I believe I choose rightly between right and wrong.
   - I believe I have the strength to live out the Gospel of Jesus.
   - I believe I comprehend the meaning and message of Jesus.
   - I believe I have a deep respect for God.
   - I believe I am aware of God’s total majesty, unlimited power, and desire for justice.

2. Read aloud the statements posted on the board. Explain the following procedure:
   - You will each have three votes.
   - You are each to vote for the statements you most agree with.
   - You may place all three votes on one statement, or you may spread them out between two or three different statements.
   - Go around the room and let each person vote. You may either call the students up to the board and have them place check marks beside their choices, or have them vote verbally.

3. When everyone has cast their votes, tally the choices. Note that each statement is related to one of the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit, which are received in their fullness in the Sacrament of Confirmation: wisdom, understanding, right judgment, courage, knowledge, reverence, and awe and wonder. (See pages 131–132 of the CFH for definitions of the seven Gifts.)

4. Divide the class into small groups. Make sure all the groups can see the statements and the voting results. Ask the students to share, within their groups, their responses to the following questions:
   - Which statement or statements do you agree with most strongly? How do you share that gift or those gifts with others?
Which statement or statements do you disagree with most strongly? What do you think you and others (including your family, friends, teachers, and school administrators) can do to help nurture your awareness of that gift or those gifts in you?

5. As a large group, brainstorm suggestions about how the students can continue to nurture the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit in their lives and to share those Gifts with others.

(This activity is adapted from the TC: Liturgy and the Sacraments manual.)

Appeals to the Holy Spirit

1. Pass out the handout “The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit” (Document #: TX003192). Then make the Sign of the Cross and read aloud the first two paragraphs on page 203 of the CFH.

2. Divide the class into small groups and offer the following explanation in your own words:
   • In this activity we will ask the Holy Spirit to be present in our hardships, and we will thank God for our joys, successes, or blessings. In particular, we will look at the current life of our school.
   • Each small group should list good things that are happening in our school—for example, the opening of a new chapel, the victory of a sports team, or the successful performance of a play. It should also list difficulties that the school is facing—for instance, the departure of a beloved teacher, a tough athletic loss, or declining enrollment.

   After allowing time for the creation of those lists, instruct the groups as follows:
   • Look over your lists and over the list of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit on the handout. Try to discern which Gifts have been used or need to be used to make the situations in our school better, and compose a prayer that addresses those situations. Your prayer might sound like this: “I pray in thanksgiving for all the money we raised for Project Smile. Thank you for the Gifts of understanding and reverence that were exhibited by the planners of the event. I also pray for right judgment as we look at other important issues that need our aid.”

3. When a good percentage of the class appears to be ready, ask the groups to take turns sharing the prayers they have created. Then invite the students to share any other prayers they might have.

4. Because the Sacrament of Confirmation has a unique relationship with inviting the Holy Spirit into our lives, ask your students to stand and pray the Prayer for the Holy Spirit, in the Pray It! article on page 205 of the CFH.

5. Conclude with the Lord’s Prayer.

(This activity is adapted from the TC: Liturgy and the Sacraments manual.)

(The material labeled TC: Liturgy and the Sacraments is adapted from Total Catechesis: Catechetical Sessions on Liturgy and the Sacraments, by Therese Brown, Laurie Delgado, Mary Shrader, and Christine Schmertz Navarro, in the Total Catechesis series [Winona, MN: Saint Mary’s Press, 2004]. Copyright © 2004 by Saint Mary’s Press. All rights reserved.)