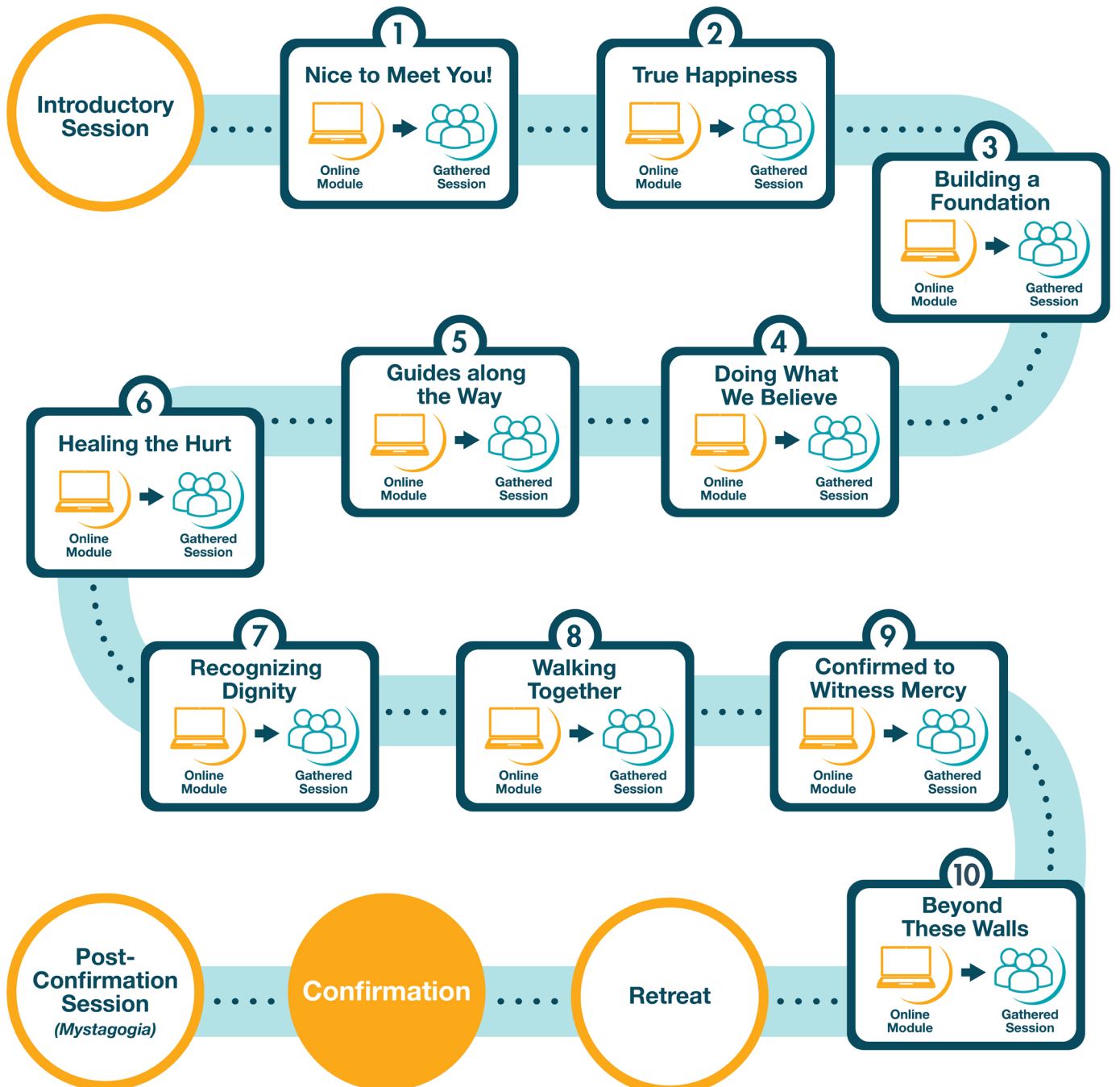




Program Structure





Program Overview

The program begins with an introductory session of orientation. Then the young people complete an online learning module on their own. This is followed by a gathered session that explores the topic more deeply as a group. This pattern of self-directed module followed by a gathered session continues for the 10 core parts of the program. A retreat and a post-Confirmation gathered session are also included.

1 Nice to Meet You

Online Module

The young people will:

- learn how to navigate through an online module
- create a personal profile that expresses who they are
- reflect on the important relationships in their life as a foundation for meaning

Gathered Session

The young people will:

- get to know one another face-to-face in order to build community
- reflect on the Holy Spirit as presented in Scripture and as active in their own lives
- examine human dignity as brought about by the Holy Spirit

2 True Happiness

Online Module

The young people will:

- discern the meaning of true happiness
- consider where love is most needed in the world today
- explore how their Confirmation is a calling to be witnesses of God's love in the world

Gathered Session

The young people will:

- become familiar with the Great Commandment as a path to true happiness
- distinguish between loving and nonloving thoughts and actions
- examine statistics around global and national poverty, and see the need for love and service on local, national, and global levels

3 Building a Foundation

Online Module

The young people will:

- identify the Gifts of the Holy Spirit as foundations for happiness
- reflect on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in their own lives
- consider how they are called to bring the gift of happiness to others

Gathered Session

The young people will:

- identify the Holy Spirit as the gift of God
- review the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit and their meaning
- recognize how they currently serve others

4 Doing What We Believe

Online Module

The young people will:

- experience inspirational stories of peers practicing acts of mercy
- explore the fruits of the Holy Spirit through the stories of Jesus in Scripture
- consider adults in their lives who inspire them

Gathered Session

The young people will:

- recognize the name of each of the fruits of the Holy Spirit
- demonstrate an understanding of the fruits of the Holy Spirit
- brainstorm ways to serve others in their community

5 Guides along the Way

Online Module

The young people will:

- understand that the saints can be seen as friends
- research a saint's life and the implications for personal faith
- choose a saint who can serve as a spiritual friend and guide in their life

Gathered Session

The young people will:

- understand the saints as guides to the Christian way of life
- explore the concept of the Communion of Saints as a communion of friendship
- become aware of their own blessings and their call to serve others

6 Healing the Hurt

Online Module

The young people will:

- learn how forgiveness can motivate us to act with courage and love
- understand how forgiveness can help us when we fail to act with love
- consider practical ways to heal others' hurts

Gathered Session

The young people will:

- understand the importance of forgiving and being forgiven
- recall that we celebrate God's love and mercy in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation
- be encouraged to imitate the love and mercy of God through service to others

7 Recognizing Dignity

Online Module

The young people will:

- reflect on ways human dignity can be supported
- explore the Great Commandment and Jesus' call to mercy as being tied to human dignity
- realize that everyone shares equally in human dignity

Gathered Session

The young people will:

- identify the meaning of human dignity in their everyday lives
- examine the intersection of the Great Commandment and the Ten Commandments
- understand the significance of the Parable of the Good Samaritan as a call to radical love

8 Walking Together

Online Module

The young people will:

- identify ways that community is present in their lives
- explore models of the Church as a way to support the authentic spiritual search for God
- examine their own place in the Church and in their individual parish

Gathered Session

The young people will:

- review the basic facts about the Seven Sacraments
- express the meaning of one of the sacraments in art
- connect the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist to a life of service

9 Confirmed to Witness Mercy

Online Module

The young people will:

- learn what to expect during the celebration of Confirmation
- become familiar with their own role in the celebration of Confirmation
- reflect on the meaning of the various liturgical components of the Sacrament of Confirmation

Gathered Session

The young people will:

- better understand the various parts of the Sacrament of Confirmation
- see Confirmation through the eyes of someone who has already celebrated the sacrament
- review a pledge of service to consider part of what they are committing to in Confirmation

10 Beyond These Walls

Online Module

The young people will:

- identify one small step they can take to make the world better
- explore stories of people who have lived the call to mercy
- reflect on the call to mercy in their own lives

Gathered Session

The young people will:

- engage in service together in their community
- reflect on their understanding and experience of service
- be challenged to take one small step to serve others in the future

Retreat

The young people will:

- engage in a contemplative and reflective period, free of day-to-day distractions and busyness
- reflect on the theme of mercy as it is found in Scripture, in the words of Pope Francis, and in daily life
- explore their own stories of encounters of mercy

Post-Confirmation Session (*Mystagogia*)

The young people will:

- deepen their understanding of the Sacrament of Confirmation by reflecting on their experience of it
- express gratitude for the guidance and community they have experienced with the Confirmation leader(s), their sponsors, and their peers
- affirm the commitment they have made by making a service pledge