



BLESSED SACRAMENT CHURCH

CONFIRMATION 2010

Name _____

Confirmation Timeline

MAY 1: *SPONSOR AFFIDAVIT DUE*
APOSTOLIC PROPOSAL DUE

SEPT 15: *APOSTOLIC FINAL DUE*
FAMILY SERVICE REPORT DUE

OCTOBER 1: *SAINT REPORT*

OCTOBER 15: *BISHOP LETTER*

CONFIRMATION: TBD (FALL 2010)

"Through the Holy Spirit we are restored to paradise, led back to the Kingdom of heaven, and adopted as children, given confidence to call God "Father" and to share in Christ's grace, called children of light and given a share in eternal glory."

- St. Basil, De Spiritu Sanctu

What You Should Know by the time you're Confirmed...

(in other words, expect to be asked about these things in your priest interview—among other things!)

- General familiarity with the life of Christ (most easily known through the mysteries of the Rosary)
 - IT IS CRUCIAL TO BE FAMILIAR WITH THE DETAILS OF THE CRUCIFIXION, RESURRECTION, ASCENSION AND PENTECOST.
- The Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit, and the role of each)
- The Sacraments: what they are, what they do for us, who administers them, what is used and said
- What is Confirmation?*
- The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit: what they are and what they do for us
- The Precepts of the Church
- Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy
- Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, and Apostles Creed

* It is NOT a rite of passage, and it is NOT about one's becoming an adult in the Church! It is about God's grace upon us, His life within us, freely given. Through it, we receive the Gifts of the Holy Spirit which enable us to save the world!

THE CREED

A selection of infallible teachings from The Bottom Line by Rev. William G. Most, Ph.D.

Revelation (*How God reveals Himself to us*)

God can give us revelations and has done so.
It is highly beneficial for mankind to have such revelations.
Miracles are possible and can be recognized as such.
There are real prophecies in the Old Testament and in the words of Jesus.
Sacred Scripture is free from error of every kind, because God is its author.
The final decision on the meaning of a text of Scripture depends solely on the magisterium of the Church.

The Church

The Church is the Mystical Body of Christ.
The Church is necessary for salvation.



God One and Three

The existence of God can be known with certitude by natural reason.
God is infinite in perfection, simple and unchangeable.
God knows all possible things and all actually existing things, even future free decision of creatures.
God is omnipotent and can do all things that are not selfcontradictory.
God governs all things by His providence.
God wills that all be saved.
There are Three Divine Persons, but only one God.



Creation

God created all things out of nothing, both material and spiritual beings.
God created for His own glory, that is, not to gain anything for Himself, but to manifest His perfections by the good things He gives to creatures.
Angels exist and are purely spiritual beings.
Devils were created good, but fell by their free sinful decision.
There are guardian angels.
Each human being has a guardian angel.
God in some special way created the first human pair.
God gave our first parents a command, which they violated.
All human beings after Adam and Eve are conceived in original sin, except Jesus and Mary.
The human soul is immortal.
Human souls are directly created by God.



Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ *has* two natures, divine and human, but *is* one Divine Person.
The two natures remain distinct, not confused nor blended.
The human of Jesus includes a human rational soul.

The humanity of Jesus includes free will, never contrary to the divine will.
By His passion, Jesus satisfied for sin and merited for us grace and glory.



The Blessed Virgin Mary

Mary was conceived without original sin.
Mary was completely free of all sin.
Mary is the Mother of God.
Mary was a virgin in conceiving Jesus, bearing Him and after bearing Him.
Mary's holiness surpasses that of all other creatures, both angels and saints.
Mary is the spiritual mother of all.
At the end of her earthly course Mary was taken, body and soul, into heavenly glory.
At least some devotion to Mary is indispensable.
It is right and beneficial to honor other saints, too.

Grace

Internal grace, not just external help, is required for all actions conducive to salvation.
Justification includes passing from the state of a merely natural child of Adam to that of an adopted child.
The faith, hope, love, and repentance that come before justification cannot be obtained unless the grace of the Holy Spirit is given before these virtues.
Justification – getting right with God, into a state that will bring final salvation – comes by faith, but that faith consists of more than just believing or having confidence that Christ has died for our sins.
The faith that justifies must be the kind that “works through love” (Galatians 5:6); otherwise it is a faith with works that is “dead” (James 2:17).
Once we have been justified without merit of our own, then the possession of that state of justification merits heaven.
Justification makes us sharers in the divine nature, so that we have the radical capability of having the vision of God, face-to-face in heaven, of knowing and loving Him as directly as He knows and loves Himself, though not, of course, in the same infinite degree.



The Sacraments

There are exactly seven sacraments, all of them instituted by Christ, which contain and confer the grace they signify upon those who place no obstacle in the way.
The obstacle is, except for Penance and Anointing of the Sick, the lack of the state of grace. For the two latter the obstacle would be the absence of interior dispositions of penitence for sin.
Three sacraments – Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders – produce a character, that is, a spiritual mark that cannot be removed nor repeated.
The essential effect for the validity of a sacrament does not depend on the holiness of the one who confers it.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION ENTRANCE QUESTIONNAIRE

YES MEANS "I AGREE." NO MEANS "I NEED HELP UNDERSTANDING/DOING THIS."

KNOWING THE FAITH

1. I believe in one God. God created all things out of nothing.
2. I believe that there is one God in three Divine Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
3. I believe that Jesus Christ is God made man, that He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.
4. I believe that Jesus suffered and died on the cross for me, so that my sins could be forgiven and so that I could be with Him in heaven.
5. I believe that Jesus rose from the dead, thus proving that He truly is God, having power over death.
6. I believe that Jesus instituted the Catholic Church, making Peter the first Pope.
7. I believe the truths that God revealed to us through Jesus and that have been handed down to us through the Apostles and their successors, the Bishops.
8. I believe that the Bible is the Word of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit and written down by human authors.
9. I believe that God is the true author of the Bible, and therefore it contains no error.
10. I believe that the seven sacraments are sacred signs instituted by Christ that give us Grace.
11. I believe that the Holy Eucharist is Jesus truly present Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity.
12. I believe that the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass makes present to us the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

LIVING THE FAITH

1. I choose to follow Jesus, to reject evil, and to do my best to keep the Commandments.
2. I plan to go to Mass every Sunday and holy day of obligation.
3. I plan to pray every day.
4. I plan to go to confession regularly.
5. I plan to receive Jesus in Holy Communion regularly (in a worthy manner, with a clean soul).
6. I plan to continue learning about my Faith and to share it with others by my words and example.
7. I want to receive the sacrament of Confirmation.

ARE THE BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT RELIABLE HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS?

Dei Verbum

Second Vatican Council Apostolic Constitution on Divine Revelation

18. It is common knowledge that among all the Scriptures, even those of the New Testament, the Gospels have a special preeminence, and rightly so, for they are the principal witness for the life and teaching of the incarnate Word, our savior.

The Church has always and everywhere held and continues to hold that the four Gospels are of apostolic origin. For what the Apostles preached in fulfillment of the commission of Christ, afterwards they themselves and apostolic men, under the inspiration of the divine Spirit, handed on to us in writing: the foundation of faith, namely, the fourfold Gospel, according to Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.(1)

19. Holy Mother Church has firmly and with absolute constancy held, and continues to hold, that the four Gospels just named, whose historical character the Church unhesitatingly asserts, faithfully hand on what Jesus Christ, while living among men, really did and taught for their eternal salvation until the day He was taken up into heaven (see Acts 1:1). Indeed, after the Ascension of the Lord the Apostles handed on to their hearers what He had said and done. This they did with that clearer understanding which they enjoyed (3) after they had been instructed by the glorious events of Christ's life and taught by the light of the Spirit of truth. (2) The sacred authors wrote the four Gospels, selecting some things from the many which had been handed on by word of mouth or in writing, reducing some of them to a synthesis, explaining some things in view of the situation of their churches and preserving the form of proclamation but always in such fashion that they told us the honest truth about Jesus.(4) For their intention in writing was that either from their own memory and recollections, or from the witness of those who "themselves from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the Word" we might know "the truth" concerning those matters about which we have been instructed (see Luke 1:2-4).

Catechism of the Catholic Church

Pope John Paul II

120. It was by the apostolic Tradition that the Church discerned which writings are to be included in the list of the sacred books.⁹⁰ This complete list is called the canon of Scripture. It includes 46 books for the Old Testament (45 if we count Jeremiah and Lamentations as one) and 27 for the New.⁹¹

The Old Testament: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, 1 and 2 Chronicles, Ezra and Nehemiah, Tobit, Judith, Esther, 1 and 2 Maccabees, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, *the Song of Songs*, *the Wisdom of Solomon*, Sirach (Ecclesiasticus), Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Baruch, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zachariah and Malachi.

The New Testament: *the Gospels according to Matthew, Mark, Luke and John*, *the Acts of the Apostles*, *the Letters of St. Paul to the Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon*, *the Letter to the Hebrews*, *the Letters of James, 1 and 2 Peter, 1, 2 and 3 John*, and *Jude*, and *Revelation (the Apocalypse)*.

**ARE THE BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT
RELIABLE HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS?**

What the Church says, in my own words:

“What must I do to have eternal life?”

Matthew 19:16-19

And behold, one came up to him, saying, “Teacher, what good deed must I do, to have eternal life?” And he said to him, “Why do you ask me about what is good? One there is who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments.” He said to him, “Which?” And Jesus said, “You shall not kill, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

The Ten Commandments

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS DETAIL THE MOST BASIC HUMAN OBLIGATIONS. REVEALED BY GOD TO MOSES ON MOUNT SINAI, THEY CAN ALSO BE DISCOVERED BY THE USE OF HUMAN REASON. YOU WILL FIND THEM IN THE *BIBLE*, EXODUS 20,2-17 AND DEUTERONOMY 5,6-21.

1. I am the LORD your God: you shall not have strange Gods before me.
2. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the LORD'S Day.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

Renewal of Baptismal Promises

We profess our Faith every time we pray the Creed at Sunday Mass!

We **renew** our Baptismal promises **every Easter Sunday**, at the beginning of the **Rite of Baptism**, and at the beginning of the **Rite of Confirmation**.

Do you reject Satan, and all his works, and all his empty promises?

Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of Heaven and earth?

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord, Who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered, died and was buried, rose from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Father?

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the dead and life everlasting?

Precepts of the Church (CCC 2042-3)

The Precepts guarantee us the most necessary minimum in

- *prayer*
- *moral effort*
- *growth in love of God*
- *growth in love of neighbor*

1. You shall attend Mass on Sundays and on holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor.
2. You shall confess your sins at least once a year.
3. You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season.
4. You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church.
5. You shall help provide for the needs of the Church.

Fruits of the Holy Spirit

LIKE ANY FRUITS, THESE GIVE EVIDENCE THAT A HEALTHY LIFE IS BEING LIVED. TREES THAT BEAR FRUIT ARE HEALTHY TREES. SOULS THAT MANIFEST THE FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT ARE HEALTHY SOULS. IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO SAY THAT WE ALLOW THE HOLY SPIRIT TO BE ACTIVE IN OUR LIFE IF WE DON'T HAVE ALL THESE FRUITS. YOU CAN FIND THEM IN THE *BIBLE* IN GALATIANS 5: 22-23.

charity joy peace patience
 kindness goodness generosity gentleness
 trustfulness modesty self-control chastity

“Whatever you do to the least of my brethren, you do unto Me.”

Matthew 25:31-46

“When the Son of man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the King will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? And when did we see You a stranger and welcome You, or naked and clothe You? And when did we see You sick or in prison and visit You?’ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.’ Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?’ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.’ And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

Works of Mercy

Love is sometimes *difficult*, but it is never going above and beyond the call of duty! Our Lord makes it clear that our salvation depends in part on how well we serve others.

“The *works of mercy* are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor’s spiritual and bodily necessities. Giving alms to the poor is one of the chief witnesses to fraternal charity; it is also a work of justice pleasing to God.” CCC 2447

Corporal (*relating to physical needs*)

feeding hungry
 giving drink to the thirsty
 clothing the naked
 visiting the imprisoned
 sheltering the homeless
 visiting the sick
 burying the dead

Spiritual (*relating to eternal needs*)

admonishing the sinner
 instructing the ignorant
 counseling the doubtful
 comforting the sorrowful
 bearing wrongs patiently
 forgiving all injuries
 praying for the living and the dead

The Sacraments: EVERY SACRAMENT GIVES US GOD'S GRACE!

Baptism

The essential elements for the sacrament of Baptism are natural water and the words "I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

Baptism is necessary for salvation.

In case of necessity anyone can baptize validly, if the person uses the proper matter and form and intends to do what the Church does.

Holy Eucharist

The presence of Jesus in the Eucharist is real, not merely figurative. The substances of bread and wine are no longer present after the consecration – only the real presence of Jesus. Jesus is present, whole and entire, in each particle of the Sacred Host and in each drop of the Precious Blood after consecration. Jesus remains present after the consecration as long as the appearances of bread and wine remain. His presence is not restricted to the moment of receiving.

The Mass is a true sacrifice in the proper sense, the sacrifice of Calvary offered in an unbloody manner.

In saying, "Do this in memory of me" (Luke 22:19; I Corinthians 11:24), Jesus ordained His apostles to be priests and ordered that they and other priests should offer His body and blood. In the Mass only the ordained priest acts in the Person of Christ and effects or brings about the consecration, which is the essence of the offering of the Mass.

Penance

When He said to the Apostles, "Whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven them," Jesus instituted the sacrament of Penance. Contrition, confession, and satisfaction are required for the full remission of sins in the sacrament of Penance. Sacramental confession is required by divine law for the remission of mortal sins.

The confession of all mortal sins committed after Baptism, even hidden ones, is required in the sacrament of Penance, along with those circumstances that change the nature of the sin. It is permissible also to confess venial sins.

Even though perfect contrition, which is based on the love of God, inasmuch as He is good in Himself – not just good to me – can remit mortal sins even before confessions, yet confession is still necessary, because perfect contrition implies the intention of confessions. Contrition necessarily includes the resolve not to sin again.

Only priests and bishops are capable of absolving from sins. Not always is the penalty due for confessed sins remitted by absolution, hence the need for satisfaction.

Anointing of the Sick

The sacrament of Anointing the Sick was instituted by Christ and promulgated by Saint James (James 5:14)

The sacrament of Anointing the Sick confers grace, forgives sin, and helps the sick person.

Only priests and bishops can confer the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.

Marriage

Matrimony is a true sacrament, instituted by Christ.

A sacramental marriage that is consummated cannot be dissolved. The goals of marriage are the procreation of children and the mutual support and love of the spouses. Grave sins against the holiness of marriage include contraception, sterilization, abortion, infanticide, masturbation, sodomy and other homosexual acts, and fornication.

Holy Orders

The sacrament of Holy Orders was instituted by Christ.

The sacrament of Holy Orders is received in the ordination of bishops, priests, and deacons in different degrees.

Only men can be validly ordained priests.

The Last Things

At once after death judgment is given, assigning a soul to its eternal fate, hell or heaven (perhaps after a stay in purgatory).

The essential reward and bliss of heaven comes from the vision of God. Heaven is eternal. The blessedness of those in heaven is in differing degrees, according to their good works while on earth.

Those who die in mortal sin suffer hell and the loss of the vision of God. Hell is eternal.

To commit a mortal sin it suffices that in full knowledge and consent the sinner does something known to be an objectively grave violation of God's law.

Those who depart from this life in the state of grace, but have not made full satisfaction for their sins, are cleansed after death in purgatory. The souls in purgatory can be assisted by the prayers of the living.

When Christ returns in glory at the end of time, both the good and the wicked will rise in their own bodies to receive the recompense of their good or evil lives in earth.

Christ will carry out the judgment of each individual at His glorious return.

Sacraments	Form (Words)	Matter (Signs)	Scripture	Minister	Effects
Sacraments of Initiation:					
Baptism	Pouring of water	“N., I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”	Matthew 28:18-20	Bishop, priest, deacon <i>“In necessity, anyone who has the intention to do as the Church does when she baptizes”</i>	*removes Original Sin (and in adults, all sin) *leaves indelible mark of belonging to Christ *incorporates into Mystical Body of Christ *makes adopted son of God
Confirmation	“N., be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit”	Laying on of hands, anointing with oil	Acts 8:14-17	Bishop	*increases and deepens Baptismal grace *effects the full outpouring of Holy Spirit *leaves indelible mark *gives power to profess faith
Eucharist	The Eucharistic Prayer within the Mass: “This is my Body... This is my Blood....”	Bread and wine	Matthew 26:26-28	For Consecration—priest For distribution—Bishops, priest, deacon, extraordinary minister	*increases union with Christ *Separates us from sin *strengthens our charity *preserves us from future mortal sin *makes the Church *commits us to the poor
Sacraments at the Service of Communion:					
Matrimony	the couple’s expression of intent and their vows	Mutual consent to live together as husband and wife	Matthew 19:3-12	Spouses, with witness of priest or deacon	*consent is sealed by God *the marriage bond created *grace to help the spouse grow in holiness
Holy Orders	Prayer of consecration	Laying on of hands	Mark 3:14-19	Bishops	*configures recipient to Christ *gives indelible spiritual mark

Sacraments	Form (Words)	Matter (Signs)	Scripture	Minister	Effects
Sacraments of Healing:					
Penance <i>Confession, Reconciliation</i>	<i>“God, the Father of mercies, through the death and the resurrection of his Son, has reconciled the world to himself and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins; through the ministry of the Church may God give you pardon and peace, and I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”</i>	Contrition (sorrow for sin), Confession of sins, and Satisfaction (doing penance given by priest)	Mark 2:16-17	Bishops, priests	*restores us to God’s grace *reconciles us to the Church *helps us to anticipate the judgement awaiting us
Anointing of Sick	<i>“Through this holy anointing may the Lord in his love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit.” “May the Lord who frees you from sin save you and raise you up.”</i>	Anointing with oil, Laying on of hands	James 5:13-16	Bishops, priests	*gives the grace of strengthening, peace, and courage *unites with Christ’s passion *sanctifies the entire Church because of sick person’s participation in sacrament

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

In the Bible and in the Church today

The Holy Gospel According to Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age."

The Holy Gospel According to Luke 24:50-53

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. While he blessed them, he parted from them, and was carried up into heaven. And they returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God.

Acts of the Apostles 1:1-5

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. To them he presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me, for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

Acts of the Apostles 2: 1-8

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. And they were amazed and wondered, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language?"

Acts of the Apostles 8:14-17

14. Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, 15. who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit; 16. for it had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 17. Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Isaiah 11:1-2

LIKE ANY OTHER GIFT, THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT ARE GIVEN FREELY, IN THE MANNER AND AMOUNT CHOSEN BY THE GIVER AND ACCEPTED BY THE RECIPIENT. THEY ARE PRESENT AS LONG AS PERSON IS IN STATE OF GRACE. THESE GIFTS ARE GIVEN IN A WAY THAT MIGHT EVEN BE OUT OF SYNC WITH THE LIFE WE ARE LIVING. THEY MAY VERY WELL BE GIVEN FOR THE SAKE OF THE SALVATION OF OTHERS.

WISDOM: seeing things from God's perspective / as God sees them

KNOWLEDGE: the content of our Faith, what we believe

UNDERSTANDING: the application of Wisdom and Knowledge to given situations of our daily life

COUNSEL: ability to judge rightly (to choose the proper course of action) in a given situation

FORTITUDE: the strength or courage to overcome difficult situations and endure suffering

PIETY: ability to act rightly (actually doing the right thing) out of love and devotion for God.

FEAR OF THE LORD: awe or due respect of the majesty and "otherness" of God that inspires us seek His Wisdom

Write your own definition for each Gift after discussing in class.
Then give a specific example of how you may use this Gift in the future.

wisdom def. _____
ex. _____

understanding
def. _____
ex. _____

right judgement/counsel
def. _____
ex. _____

fortitude/courage
def. _____
ex. _____

knowledge
def. _____
ex. _____

reverence/piety
def. _____
ex. _____

fear of the Lord/awe & wonder
def. _____
ex. _____

Code of Canon Law

THE LAW OF THE CHURCH EXPLAINS THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION.

The Sacrament

Canon 879

The sacrament of confirmation impresses a character and by it the baptized, continuing on the path of Christian initiation, are enriched by the gift of the Holy Spirit and bound more perfectly to the Church; it strengthens them and obliges them more firmly to be witnesses to Christ by word and deed and to spread and defend the faith.

The Candidate

Canon 889-2

Outside of the danger of death, to be licitly confirmed it is required, if the person has the use of reason, that one be suitably instructed, properly disposed and able to renew one's baptismal promises.

VERY HELPFUL IN FIGURING OUT THE MEANING OF CONFIRMATION ARE THE OFFICES AND RESPONSIBILITIES THAT REQUIRE CONFIRMATION. **WHAT THEY HAVE IN COMMON IS THAT THEY ARE ALL PUBLIC COMMITMENTS TO SHARE IN THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SALVATION OF ANOTHER PERSON.**

Religious Life

Canon 645 §1

Before candidates are admitted to the novitiate they must produce proof of baptism and confirmation, and of their free status.

Godparent

Canon 874 -3

To be admitted to undertake the office of sponsor [for baptism], a person must: be a catholic who has been confirmed and has received the blessed Eucharist, and who lives a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken.

Confirmation Sponsor

Canon 892

As far as possible the person to be confirmed is to have a sponsor. The sponsor's function is to take care that the person confirmed behaves as a true witness of Christ and faithfully fulfils the duties inherent in this sacrament.

Canon 893 §§1-2

A person who would undertake the office of sponsor must fulfill the conditions mentioned in can. 874. It is desirable that the sponsor chosen be the one who undertook this role at baptism.

According to our local Church of Arlington and the universal Church, your SPONSOR:

- ❖ Must be a practicing Catholic who has received the Sacraments of Baptism, Penance, Eucharist and Confirmation
- ❖ As a practicing Catholic s/he will be expected to receive Communion at the Mass of Confirmation
- ❖ If married, must be in a valid Catholic marriage
- ❖ Must sixteen years of age or older
- ❖ Must not be your father or mother
- ❖ May be male or female
- ❖ May be your Baptismal Sponsor
- ❖ Must have every intention of fulfilling his/her role of Sponsor

Holy Orders

Canon 1033

Only one who has received the sacrament of sacred confirmation may lawfully be promoted to orders.

Holy Matrimony

Canon 1065 §1

Catholics who have not yet received the sacrament of confirmation are to receive it before being admitted to marriage, if this can be done without grave inconvenience.

The Holy Spirit in the Trinity and His Mission in the World

by Rev. William G. Most

We already said the most essential things about the Holy Spirit in explaining the first article of the Creed. Let us add a few things here.

He makes holy the souls of the just by His presence. But a Spirit is not present in the sense of taking up space. We say a Spirit is present wherever it causes an effect. In the soul, the Holy Spirit transforms it, making it basically capable of taking in, after death, the infinite streams of knowledge and love that flow within the Holy Trinity. Thus we are really "sharers in the divine nature" (2 Peter 1:4). This is a dignity so great that any earthly honor is insignificant beside it.

He comes with his Seven Gifts. These make the soul capable of taking in the special lights and inspirations He sends in a much higher way than what is had in ordinary graces. We do not notice much of any effects from these Gifts until we have advanced rather far in the spiritual life, for great docility and purity of heart are needed.

On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came down visibly on the Apostles. He gave them the power to speak in strange tongues to the crowds that came to Jerusalem for that Feast. He also transformed them, from selfish and timid men into giants of courage and faith.

Taken from The Basic Catholic Catechism PART FOUR: The Apostle's Creed VI-VIII Eighth Article: "I believe in the Holy Spirit"

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A BRIEF EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE FOR YOUTH

I. YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD AND HIM ONLY SHALL YOU SERVE

Have I failed to love God at all times?
 Have I failed to pray every day?
 Have I failed to orient my life and activities toward God, Who is my creator and Redeemer?
 Have I neglected my prayer life?
 Have I failed to make an act of penance or perform a work of mercy on Fridays?
 Have I done unnecessary physical work on Sundays?
 Have I shown lack of reverence to holy objects or even to the Blessed Sacrament?
 Have I failed to study and learn the Word of God?
 Have I failed to educate myself in the Catholic Faith according to my capacities?
 Have I failed to defend the Faith against detractors?

II. YOU SHALL NOT TAKE THE NAME OF THE LORD YOUR GOD IN VAIN

Have I used the Holy Name of God disrespectfully?
 Have I used the Holy Name of God in a curse?
 Have I broken an oath made with God as a witness?

III. REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY, KEEP IT HOLY

Have I done unnecessary work on a Sunday?
 Have I failed to charitable works on a Sunday?
 Have I forgotten or refused to go to Mass on a Sunday or Holy Day of Obligation?
 Have I been the cause of someone else's missing Mass?
 Have I received Holy Communion without keeping the fast for at least an hour?
 Have I received communion in a church that was not a Catholic Church?

IV. HONOR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER, THAT YOUR DAYS MAY BE LONG IN THE LAND WHICH THE LORD YOUR GOD GIVES YOU

Have I failed to show my parents due honor and respect?
 Have I failed to love my parents and relatives?
 Have I disobeyed my parents or grandparents?
 Have I disrespected someone in authority over me?
 Have I abused my own authority?
 Have I made it difficult for my children to respect their father or mother?
 Have I failed to accept the discipline or teachings of the Holy Catholic Church?

V. YOU SHALL NOT MURDER

Have I teased people?
 Have I said mean things?
 Have I picked on someone?
 Have I failed to make peace?
 Have I refused to forgive someone?
 Am I bigoted or prejudiced?
 Have I been physically or verbally abusive?
 Have I taken unnecessary risks for fun or on a dare?
 Have I harbored hatred or held a grudge?
 Have I been indifferent to the needs of the poor?
 Have I neglected the care of the infirm, the elderly or the handicapped who are in my charge?

VI. YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY

IX. YOU SHALL NOT COVET YOUR NEIGHBOR'S WIFE

Have I had impure thoughts?
 Have I told or laughed at dirty jokes?
 Have I watched bad movies?
 Have I failed to be chaste according to my state in life?
 Have I been impure in conversation, thought or deed?

VII. YOU SHALL NOT STEAL

X. YOU SHALL NOT COVET ANYTHING THAT BELONGS TO YOUR NEIGHBOR

Have I cheated?
 Have I failed to share with others?
 Have I pouted when I didn't get what I want?
 Have I wished bad things would happen to people because they have something I want?
 Have I failed to respect other people's property?
 Have I stolen anything?
 Have I been envious or jealous of another's fortune?
 Have I unlawfully copied software, videos or music?
 Have I failed to put in a full day's work for a full day's pay?
 Have I failed to make my just contribution to Church?
 Have I lied or hidden the truth?

VIII. YOU SHALL NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS AGAINST YOUR NEIGHBOR

Have I played games with the truth?
 Have I lied?
 Have I gossiped?
 Have I injured anyone else's reputation unnecessarily?

Sponsor Conversations

1. Due June 1

2. Due Sept. 15

I have determined my child does not need to complete these w/the sponsor.

Parent signature: _____

Sponsor Conversation 1

Have a conversation with your sponsor that includes these questions. Submit your answers on separate paper (typed or handwritten)

1. What does your faith mean to you?
2. What do you do to maintain your faith and grow in your relationship with God?
3. *Talk to your sponsor to help you develop a spiritual growth plan. It should include a plan to attend Sunday Mass each week.*

Sponsor Conversation 2

Have a conversation with your sponsor that includes these questions. Submit your answers by September 15.

1. What opportunities do you have to witness Christ?
2. What helps you to bear witness?
3. What are the biggest challenges you face in practicing your faith?

APOSTOLIC PROJECT

THE APOSTOLIC PROJECT:

- is designed by the student and approved by parents, teachers, and director of religious education
- consists of 20 hours service
- incorporates corporal and spiritual works of mercy (LISTED on PAGE 9)
- has for its goal the salvation of another soul (*you want person(s) involved to know of God's love!*)

"Jesus went about doing good." Acts 10,38

"A person who prays, makes God, who is Merciful Love, present in the world." Pope John Paul II

SUGGESTED IDEAS FOR COMBINING PRAYER AND GOOD WORKS!

- Visit a nursing home once or twice a week.
- Pray for those you visit! Come by the Adoration chapel on Fridays.
- Volunteer with the ALIVE Child Development Center on King Street and PRAY for those with whom you work!
- Volunteer with the Missionaries of Charity Sisters.
- Mow lawns for elderly neighbors and pray a rosary for them.
- Offer to babysit for a family in the neighbor for free, and then pray for them. If the parents are open to it, teach one of the kids how to say the Our Father or Hail Mary!
- Bring someone to Mass who can't get there!
- Help someone in summer school and pray for them.
- Teach your brother or sister how to say the rosary and read to them from a picture Bible.
- Serve meals at Christ House, and pray for those whom you serve while you prepare the meal!
- Help with the ALIVE Saturday morning food distribution.

TIMELINE TO STAY ON TRACK

SPRING 2010: Make a plan for your Apostolic Project and review it with your teacher.

MAY 1: *Proposal due to MS. DOYLE IN PARISH OFFICE.*

JULY 15: Calculate your hours so far and come up with a plan for completion.

SEPTEMBER 15-30: WRITE UP A REPORT ON YOUR PROJECT, SIGNED BY AN ADULT.

OCTOBER 1: *HAND IT IN TO MS DOYLE IN THE PARISH OFFICE.*

Apostolic Project Proposal

DUE MAY 1.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/guardian signature _____

My Apostolic Project will include the following works of mercy (please check all that apply):

Corporal Works of Mercy

- Feeding the hungry.
- Giving drink to the thirsty.
- Clothing the naked.
- Sheltering the homeless.
- Visiting the sick.
- Visiting the imprisoned.
- Burying the dead.

Spiritual Works of Mercy

- Counseling the doubtful.
- Instructing the ignorant.
- Admonishing sinners.
- Comforting the afflicted.
- Forgiving offenses.
- Bearing wrongs patiently.
- Praying for the living and the dead.

What specific work(s) did you propose?

When will this work be done?

Where will this work be done?

In what way(s) have you done this kind of work before?

With whom will you collaborate to finish this work?

Who stands to benefit from this work?

How will they be closer to God and His Church because of your work?

Apostolic Project Summary (final)

Due September 15

Minimum 20 hours.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Parent/guardian signature _____

My Apostolic Project included the following works of mercy (please check all that apply):

Corporal Works of Mercy

- Feeding the hungry.
- Giving drink to the thirsty.
- Clothing the naked.
- Sheltering the homeless.
- Visiting the sick.
- Visiting the imprisoned.
- Burying the dead.

Spiritual Works of Mercy

- Counseling the doubtful.
- Instructing the ignorant.
- Admonishing sinners.
- Comforting the afflicted.
- Forgiving offenses.
- Bearing wrongs patiently.
- Praying for the living and the dead.

What specific work(s) did you complete?

What was easy or difficult about it?

Who benefited from your work?

How are they now closer to God and His Church because of your work?

In what ways were they in a position to thank you?

How are you now closer to God and His Church because of your work?

What would be a more challenging work of mercy for you?

What works of mercy do you think you could do on a regular basis?

Which works of mercy is your Confirmation Saint known for?

What would it take for you to do the same work(s) of mercy?

FAMILY SERVICE PROJECT

*Due September 15
No proposal necessary
Minimum 10 hours*

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/guardian signature _____

What specific work(s) did you complete for your family?

How is your family now closer to God and His Church because of your work?

How are you now closer to God and His Church because of your work for your family?

BISHOP'S LETTER—Due October 15

SAMPLE LETTER TO THE BISHOP

“Sample” means you may use this for ideas, but your letter should NOT look exactly like this!

Date

*Most Rev. Paul S. Loverde, D.D.
Diocese of Arlington
200 North Glebe Road, Suite 914
Arlington, VA 22203*

Your Excellency:

[open with a greeting such as, Praised be Jesus Christ! God's blessing be upon you!] The purpose of this letter is to request the Sacrament of Confirmation next fall when you or your delegate comes to Blessed Sacrament Church.

During this past year, I have studied the Catholic Faith, and it is very important to me because...

The saint that I chose for my patron for Confirmation is Saint/Blessed...

St. _____ is well known for...

The reasons I chose St. _____ for my patron are...

As a requirement in preparation for Confirmation, I have participated in an apostolic project. My project involved...

I wish to be confirmed because...

Thank you, Bishop Loverde, for...

Please say a prayer for me as I continue preparing for the coming of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation. I will pray for you and your intentions.

*God bless you.
Sincerely,*

Questionnaire for the Final Confirmation Interview

CONSIDER EACH QUESTION.

If any of these are really hard for you to answer, talk to your parents and teachers.

This is an opportunity for you and the Church to discern your readiness for the Sacrament of Confirmation!

PLEASE WEAR ATTIRE APPROPRIATE FOR CHURCH. THANK YOU.

1. Who are the people who pray for you?
2. Which angels and saints are interceding for you?
3. Who are the people who are trying to help you get to heaven?
4. Do you make it a point to help others? In what ways?
5. What have you done for the salvation of someone else?
6. Are you willing to talk to people about Jesus?
7. How important is it to you to help people believe in Jesus, belong to His Church, receive the Sacraments and go to heaven?
8. How would you act in the following situations:
 - o You meet a Protestant friend who asks you,
“Why are you a Catholic? What difference does it make to be a Catholic?”
 - o A friend of yours remarks,
“I don’t understand why you can’t just go to your room and tell God that you’re sorry for your sins. Why tell a priest that you’re sorry?”
 - o Someone says to you that certain Catholic teachings cannot be found in the Bible – for example, Purgatory and the Assumption into heaven of the Blessed Virgin; and then ask,
“How can you believe in these teachings when they are not in the Bible?”
 - o A friend of yours says that a person should do what feels right. The friend says,
“I don’t feel bad if I shoplift, so how can that be wrong?”
9. How do you intend to continue to learn more about Jesus and His Church?
10. Are you prepared to live the teachings of Christ and His Church, i.e. what the Pope and the bishops in union with him teach?
11. How do you intend to be active in the Church after Confirmation?
12. What are the works of the parish that you could do?
13. What is the importance of attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation?
14. What is the importance of frequent reception of the Sacrament of Penance? When must you go to Confession?
15. How have you made prayer more a part of my life?
16. How have you incorporated reading Sacred Scripture into your relationship with God?
17. What is your favorite Gospel story?
18. When were the Apostles hiding in the upper room?
19. What’s the difference between the Resurrection and the Ascension?
20. What were Our Lord’s last instructions to the Apostles before He ascended into heaven?
21. What were the Apostles doing in the upper room before Pentecost?
22. What happened at Pentecost?
23. What did the Apostles start doing after Pentecost?
24. What’s the difference between the Ascension and the Assumption?
25. Is God asking me to be a saint?
26. What are the vocations to which God might be calling me?
27. Why do I want to be confirmed?

NOVENA FOR PENTECOST

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Thy faithful
and enkindle in them the fire of Thy love.
Send forth Thy Spirit and they shall be created,
and Thou shalt renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray. O God, who by the light of the Holy
Spirit did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant
us in the same Spirit to be truly wise and ever to
rejoice in His consolation. Through the same
Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us pray. O Holy Spirit, divine Spirit of light
and love, I consecrate to you my understanding,
my heart, my will, my whole being for time and
for eternity. May my understanding always be
submissive to your heavenly inspiration and to the
teachings of the Holy Catholic Church, of which
you are the infallible Guide; may my heart ever be
inflamed with love of God and of my neighbor;
may my will always conform to the divine will,
and may my whole life be a faithful imitation of
the life and virtues of our Lord and Savior Jesus
Christ, to whom be honor and glory forever.
Amen.

Prayer of Saint Augustine

Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit,
that all my thoughts may be holy.
Act in me, O Holy Spirit,
that all my work, too, may be holy.
Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit,
that I love but what is holy.
Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit,
to defend all that is holy.
Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit,
that I always may be holy.