

Adult Session on Confirmation Rites and Symbols

Catechetical Goal: To have the adults come to a deeper understanding about the rituals and symbols of confirmation. *Each participant would have a copy of the scripture passages. CCC quotes and reflections will be up on a board. Reflections would be short (1 minute) before transitioning to next ritual/symbol. With each section we will unpack why we use symbol and how each symbol can bring us deeper in our relationship with God. We will then look at how the CCC quote and scripture tie in to that symbol/ritual.*

Renewal of Baptismal Promises:

Opening questions: What does being baptized mean to you? How does it affect your life? *Read the renewal of baptismal promises from the rite and talk about how closely baptism and confirmation are to each other, both part of that initiation together with eucharist.*

CCC 1285 “It must be explained to the faithful that the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace.”

- have someone read Matthew 3:16-17
- Reflection: Why do I choose to be in relationship with Jesus?

Laying on of Hands:

Opening questions: What does touch mean to us? What kind of things can our hands symbolize?

CCC 1288 “The imposition of hands is rightly recognized by the Catholic tradition as the origin of the sacrament of Confirmation, which in a certain way perpetuates the grace of Pentecost in the Church.”

- have someone read Acts 19:5-6
- Reflection: When have I experienced the powerful nature of touch?

Anointing With Chrism:

Pass around the Sacred Chrism to have participants smell and experience.

Opening questions: What does oil do for us in our daily life?

CCC 1294 “those who are anointed share more completely in the mission of Jesus Christ and fullness of Holy Spirit with which he is filled, so that their lives may give off “the aroma of Christ” (2 Cor 2:15)

- have someone read Psalm 89:21-22
- Reflection: When have I been that “aroma of Christ” for others?

Sponsor:

Opening question: What are some qualities we learn from being in community? How can we be companions for each other in our journey of faith?

(Code of Canon Law) “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 fulfills the duties inherent in this sacrament.”

- have someone read Mark 6:7
- Reflection: Who in my life gives me the support I need to live out my faith?

Name:

Opening questions: What is your confirmation name? Do you remember what it means? *Have a book of saints’ names and look up a few.*

Adult Catechism p. 206 “The connection between Confirmation and Baptism is also reflected in the choosing of a name by which the candidate will be confirmed...”

- have someone read Gen 35:10
- Reflection: By what different names am I known?

Sign of Peace:

Opening question: Why is it important to extend a sign of peace within our communities? When do we do it at mass? Why then?

CCC 1301 “The sign of peace that concludes the rite of the sacrament signifies and demonstrates ecclesial communion with the bishop and with all the faithful.”

- have someone read John 14:27
- Reflection: When have I been open to the uniting power of peace?

End with this quote from CCC 1303

“Confirmation brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace:

- it roots us more deeply in the divine filiation which makes us cry, “Abba, Father” (Rom 8:15)
- it unites us more firmly to Christ;
- it renders our bond with the Church more perfect;
- it gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross...”