

Preparing a Child/Teen for Confirmation

General Comments:

- The revised Rite of Confirmation indicates that Episcopal conferences designate the appropriate age for Confirmation.
- In the United States, the age of Confirmation for children and young people varies widely from diocese to diocese; it can be designated between the age of discretion through around the age of sixteen.
- Since age levels vary so, a single catechesis cannot be prescribed but general guidelines can be articulated.

The Child or Teen through good catechesis

- understands that Confirmation increases and deepens the grace of Baptism, imprinting an indelible character on the soul.
- sees that Confirmation strengthens the baptismal conferral of the Holy Spirit on those confirmed in order to incorporate them more firmly in Christ, strengthen their bond with the Church, associate them more closely with the Church's mission, increase in them the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and help them bear witness to their faith in words and deeds.
- understands the role of the Holy Spirit, his gifts and fruits.
- receives catechesis that is developmentally appropriate and includes retreat experiences.
- receives instruction on the Rite of Confirmation and its basic symbols: the imposition of hands, the anointing with Sacred Chrism, and the words of the sacramental formula.
- experiences the involvement of parents and sponsors in the catechetical preparation for Confirmation.
- learns that the Bishop is the ordinary minister of the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- has a general understanding/appreciation of one's life in Christ, and one's commitment to God and Church.

Learning about this sacrament is on-going. Children/teens have the right to a fuller catechesis each year.

Adapted from the NDC, page 122-123

Preparing to Celebrate Confirmation

General Concepts

Sacraments of Initiation
Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults
Significance of Confirmation
Significance of a Sponsor
Role of the Holy Spirit
Body of Christ
Gifts of the Holy Spirit
Signs of the Holy Spirit
Fruits of the Holy Spirit
The Rite of Confirmation
Seal of the Holy Spirit
The Law of Love
Corporal Works of Mercy
Spiritual Works of Mercy
Cardinal Virtues
The Church
Significance of the Creed
Discipleship
Journey of Faith
Communion of Saints
The Mission of the Church
Christian Maturity
Stewardship

Prayers

The Apostles Creed
Prayer to the Holy Spirit
The Nicene Creed
Liturgical Mass
Prayer of St Francis

Some Scripture to Remember

Mark 3: 14-19	Calling of the Twelve
Matthew 22:37-40	The Two Great Commandments
Acts 2: 1-39	Pentecost
Acts 2: 42-47; Acts 4:32-37	Early Community
Mark: 8:34-38	Discipleship
I Cor. 12: 13-26	Body of Christ
Mark 1: 4-11	Baptism of Jesus
Matt 28:18-20	Commissioning of the Apostles
John 16: 16:14	Coming of the Paraclete

Words to Know

Anointing	Catechumen	Chrism
Counsel	Covenant	Creed
Discipleship	Fear of the Lord	Fortitude
Indelible	Intercessions	Initiation
Justice	Kingdom of God	Knowledge
Pentecost	Piety	Prudence
Rite	Seal	Sponsor
Temperance	Understanding	Vocation
Wisdom		