

*Faith  
First*

Legacy Edition  
PARISH



PREPARING  
FOR

**CONFIRMATION**

Using  
Faith First Legacy Edition / Parish  
Grade 6

# PREPARING FOR CONFIRMATION

Using Faith First  
Legacy Edition / Parish  
Grade 6

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# How to Use This Booklet

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The preparation for Confirmation is a grace-filled time. *Preparing for Confirmation* will assist you in using **Faith First® Legacy Edition / Parish Grade 6** to prepare students for receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.

*Preparing for Confirmation* focuses on three chapters in **Faith First Legacy Edition / Parish Grade 6**. These chapters present concepts that are an essential part of a sound catechesis for sacramental preparation for Confirmation. Chapter 1 and chapter 7 are suggested to be used as part of the long-range preparation for the celebration of Confirmation. Chapter 13, which has been divided into three lessons, is suggested to be taught immediately prior to the celebration of the sacrament. A Confirmation retreat program is also included.

*Preparing for Confirmation* is simple, clear, and easy to use. The booklet consists of two two-page spreads for presenting each of the chapters. On the first page for each lesson you will find a brief explanation that places the chapter in the context of preparation for Confirmation. This page contains both a brief background essay, which contextualizes the lesson within the Confirmation preparation process, and a list of helpful resources that can be used to enrich the teaching of the lesson.

The second page of the lesson plan is a step-by-step process for teaching the lesson. This lesson plan contains materials not included in the **Faith First Legacy Edition / Parish Grade 6** catechist guide and focuses the presentation of the lesson as part of the sacramental preparation process. The third and fourth pages of chapter 1 and chapter 7 are reproducible handouts. These contain activities that will help the students apply and integrate the faith themes of the lesson into their daily living. The three sessions of chapter 13 each contain a reproducible activity and a closing prayer celebration.

The final section of this booklet contains a suggested plan for a Confirmation retreat. The plan can be used for a full-day retreat or adapted to be used in a shorter time period.

## Using Chapter I—The Gift of Faith



### Preparing for Confirmation

Faith is both God’s invitation to believe and trust in God—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—and our response to that divine invitation. The story of a Christian’s life gives witness to that divine invitation and our response to it.

Chapter I of **Faith First Legacy Edition / Parish** Grade 6 provides you and the young people and their families with the opportunity to reflect on the faith journey begun at Baptism. This chapter invites the young people to reread and reflect upon the promises made at Baptism. It then calls the young people to take greater personal responsibility for those promises, which were first made at their Baptism in their name by their parents and godparents.

At Baptism the young people were marked with the sign of the cross and claimed for Christ. The cross is the symbol of Christ’s love for the Father and for all people. During your presentation of this chapter you might wish to include a rite of signing with the cross similar to the one that is found in the “Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens” of the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)*. Including such a rite in your presentation of this chapter will celebrate your students’ intention to complete the celebration of their initiation into the Catholic Church.

### Additional Resources

- **Blackline masters:** “I Belong to the Catholic Church,” page 6, and “Confirm,” page 7. Use these activities as suggested in the supplemental lesson plan or in place of on-page activities in the student book.
- **Faith First** Grade 6 video, Segment 1, “Faith First Interviews/Faith and Self-Esteem”

## Begin the lesson . . .

### Guide Page 49

#### Student Page 13

- In Catechist Guide (CG) use **PRAY**.
- Direct the students' attention to the cover of the text. Ask a volunteer to share the significance of the symbol on the cover. Summarize by explaining that the symbol is the Chi Rho. It is composed of two Greek letters that represent the first two letters in Christ's name.
- Remind the students that at their Baptism, the priest or deacon, their parents, and their godparents traced a sign of the cross on their forehead. Point out that this was a sign of their being welcomed into the Christian community and being claimed as belonging to Christ.
- In CG use **DISCOVER**. Point out that as candidates for Confirmation they have the responsibility and opportunity to cooperate with God's grace to deepen their relationship with the Holy Trinity.

### Guide Page 50

#### Student Page 14

- In CG use **FOCUS** and **DISCOVER**.
- Divide the class into four groups and have each group work with one of four ways listed below that can help us come to know God better. Assign each group one of these tasks:
  - Group 1: Compose a prayer to the Holy Spirit.
  - Group 2: Select one Old Testament passage that reveals something about God.
  - Group 3: Select one Gospel passage in which Jesus teaches about God.
  - Group 4: List five teachings of the Catholic Church that guide us in living as children of God.

- Allow sufficient time for the groups to complete the assignment and present their work to the entire class.
- In CG use **REINFORCE** and **INTEGRATE**.

### Guide Page 51

#### Student Page 15

- Use **FOCUS** and **DISCOVER**.
- Share with the students the information in the "Background: Faith-Filled People" box at the bottom of CG page 51 to help them learn more about Miriam.
- Continue with **REINFORCE** and **INTEGRATE**.
- Distribute copies of the worksheet on page 6 of this booklet and have the students complete it. Have the students relate how their reception of the sacraments and the work of the parish have helped them in their journey of faith.

### Guide Page 52

#### Student Page 16

- Use **FOCUS** and **DISCOVER**.
- Have the students turn to page 284 in their texts to compare the Apostles' Creed with the Nicene Creed.
- Continue with **REINFORCE** and **INTEGRATE**.

### Guide Page 53

#### Student Page 17

- Use **HIGHLIGHT**, **DISCOVER**, and **INTEGRATE**.
- Emphasize the importance of sharing faith with peers, parents, sponsors, and other significant people as an important aspect of preparation for Confirmation.
- Have the students discuss how easy or difficult they may find it to talk about their beliefs and Catholic faith with others. Acknowledge that it sometimes takes courage to share one's faith. Then point out that

courage is one of the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

- Help the students recognize that their loving and respectful words and actions speak more powerfully about their faith in Christ than telling people about their faith in Christ.

### Guide Page 54

#### Student Page 18

- Use **HIGHLIGHT** and **RESPOND**.
- Tell the students that when they were baptized, their parents and godparents spoke for them by professing their faith in God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and the Church.
- Continue with **CHOOSE**. Emphasize that when they are confirmed, the students will commit themselves to live and give witness to their faith.
- Distribute copies of the worksheet on page 7 of this booklet. After the students complete the activity, invite them to discuss the consequences of their courageously living as followers of Christ.
- Summarize by pointing out that the Holy Spirit dwells within the Church and within each of them. The Holy Spirit will help them live as faithful members of the Catholic Church.

## Conclude the lesson . . .

### Guide Page 58

#### Student Page 19

- Review the concepts taught in this lesson with **WE REMEMBER**. Answer any questions the students may have.
- Close the lesson using **WE PRAY**.
- Remind the students to share the "With My Family" page with their families.

# I Belong to the Catholic Church

## Baptism

My parents believe in Jesus, the Risen Lord. They had me baptized so that like them I might become a follower of Jesus and a member of the Catholic Church.

I received the sacrament of Baptism

\_\_\_\_\_ [date]

\_\_\_\_\_ [place]

My godmother's name

\_\_\_\_\_ My godfather's name

## Parish

Name of our parish, our Christian Catholic community

\_\_\_\_\_ Name of the pastor

## Communion

I celebrated the first of many Eucharists.  
I made my First Communion

\_\_\_\_\_ [date]

\_\_\_\_\_ [place]

## Reconciliation

I celebrated the sacrament of Reconciliation/Penance.  
I made my First Confession

\_\_\_\_\_ [date]

\_\_\_\_\_ [place]

# CONFIRM

**L**ook up the word *confirm* in a dictionary.

Write the definition here:

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**W**hen we say that the news is CONFIRMED we're sure that it's true. When your friends CONFIRM that they will come to your birthday party, you know that they will be there to celebrate. List examples of events that you might be invited to participate in. Choose one and describe why it is important to confirm your participation. Then describe what would happen if you confirmed your participation and then out of negligence failed to participate.

## Using Chapter 7—The Church: The Age of the Spirit



### Preparing for Confirmation

Saint Paul the Apostle summarizes the Church's faith in the work of the Holy Spirit. Paul writes: "I want you to understand . . . no one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit" (1 Corinthians 12:3). Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would always be with the Church as her helper, guide, and teacher. (See John 14:16–18, 26–27; Acts of the Apostles 1:8, 2:1–47.)

Each year Christians celebrate the solemnity of Pentecost. On that day we remember and celebrate the birth of the Church. We remember that the disciples, filled with the gift of the Holy Spirit, proclaimed the Gospel with such enthusiasm (a word from the Greek meaning "inspired, or filled with spirit") that over three thousand people repented and were baptized. We celebrate and profess our faith in the same Holy Spirit's active presence in the life of the Church today.

As you present **Faith First Legacy Edition / Parish** Grade 6, chapter 7, help the students preparing for Confirmation discover and deepen their faith in the Church, the temple of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the source of the Church's life and unity, her gifts and charisms. (See *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 797–801.) Remind the students that they have been gifted and empowered with the Holy Spirit. They are to join with the Church in building a world on the gospel values of "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control" (Galatians 5:22–23).

### Additional Resources

- **Blackline masters:** "Signs of the Spirit," page 10, and "Proclaiming Jesus," page 11. Use these activities as suggested in the supplemental lesson plan or in place of on-page activities in the student book.
- **Faith First** Junior High *Creed and Prayer* video, Segment 7, *The Visual Bible*™, "The Early Mission of the Church in Jerusalem"



## Begin the lesson . . .

### Guide Page 121

#### Student Page 61

- In CG use **PRAY** and **DISCOVER**.
- Note that fire (the lighted candles) is one image of the Holy Spirit depicted in the photograph on page 61.
- Ask the students to name other images used by the writers of the Bible for the Holy Spirit. Refer to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 692–701 for biblical titles and symbols representing the Holy Spirit to share with the class.
- Remind the students that through Baptism they were joined to Christ and received the gift of the Holy Spirit.

### Guide Page 122

#### Student Page 62

- Use **FOCUS** and **DISCOVER**.
- Ask the students to close their eyes and imagine they are among the disciples on Pentecost as you read aloud the account of Pentecost from the Acts of the Apostles 2:1–4. After the reading pause and then invite the students to share what they thought and how they felt when the room filled with wind as the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples.
- Continue with **REINFORCE** and **INTEGRATE**.
- Distribute copies of the worksheet on page 10 of this booklet and have the students complete it. Allow time for volunteers to share their responses.
- Summarize the sharing by emphasizing that Spirit-filled people are responsive to the Holy Spirit's presence in their lives.

### Guide Page 123

#### Student Page 63

- Use **FOCUS, DISCOVER**, and **REINFORCE**.
- Discuss with the class how a parish is a visible and living sign of the four Marks of the Church—one, holy, catholic, and apostolic. Help the students appreciate the different ways your parish shows its unity, holiness, openness to others, and faithfulness to the teachings of Christ and the Church.
- Continue with **INTEGRATE**.

### Guide Page 124

#### Student Page 64

- Use **FOCUS** and **DISCOVER**.
- Ask volunteers to explain what Jesus was referring to in John 15:13. Help them recognize that through his Crucifixion, Jesus laid down his life for all people so that we can have life everlasting in heaven.
- Continue with **REINFORCE** and **INTEGRATE**.

### Guide Page 125

#### Student Page 65

- Use **HIGHLIGHT** and **DISCOVER**.
- Explain to the students that the titles of encyclicals are usually taken from the first few words of the encyclical. Point out that encyclicals are usually written in Latin and then call attention to the Latin title of the encyclical on page 65 as an example, namely, *Evangelium Vitae*, which means “The Gospel of Life.”
- Continue with **INTEGRATE**.
- Invite the students to brainstorm some of the teachings and advice a pope might relate if he wrote a letter to all Confirmation candidates throughout the world.

- List responses on the board.
- Emphasize that our faith formation as Catholics does not end with the celebration of the Confirmation. God invites us to grow in faith and love of him and one another as disciples of Jesus our whole life long.
- Explain that encyclicals, other Church documents, homilies, and ongoing religious education are some of the ways the Church helps us grow in faith.

### Guide Page 126

#### Student Page 76

- Use **HIGHLIGHT, RESPOND**, and **CHOOSE**.
- Distribute copies of the worksheet on page 11 of this booklet. Use the activity to help the students discover that they too are teachers. Point out that they are called and helped by the Holy Spirit to share the Good News lived and proclaimed by Jesus and the Church.
- Invite volunteers to share their designs and five themes with the class.

## Conclude the lesson . . .

- Have the students complete the **WE REMEMBER** activities to review lesson content. Answer any questions they may have about the Holy Spirit or the Church.
- Summarize by telling the class that it is the Holy Spirit that invites us, teaches us, and helps us to continue the work of Christ in the world.
- Close the session by using **WE PRAY**.
- Remind the students to share the “With My Family” page with their parents.

# Signs of the Spirit

**H**ockey teams that win the Stanley Cup are filled with “spirit” before, during, and after each and every game! The power of a winning team’s spirit electrifies the arena. Describing spirit in words may not be so easy. But we know when it is there—and not there. We can see and feel it. It sets us afire!

“At his baptism by John, Christ himself was anointed by the Spirit and sent out on his public ministry to set the

world on fire” (“Homily or Instruction,” *Rite of Confirmation* 22). We too are anointed by the Spirit to set the world on fire—by the fire of our love for God and for others.

**When do you see people living Spirit-filled lives?  
Describe what these people do or say.**

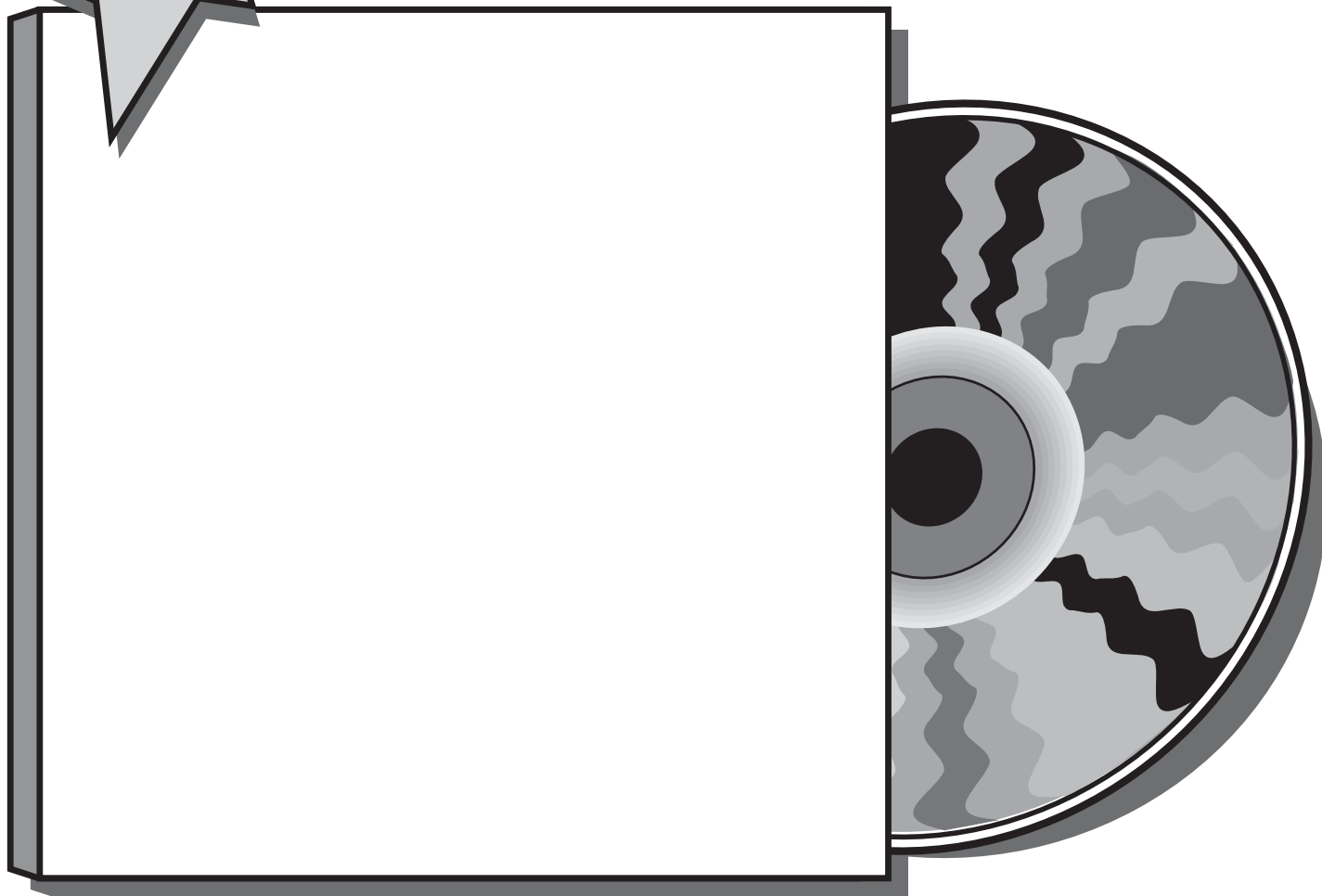
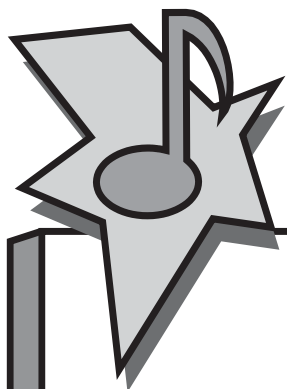


# Proclaiming Jesus

In the general intercessions at Confirmation the Church prays that those who have been newly

confirmed "give witness to Christ by lives built on faith and love" (Rite of Confirmation 30).

Think about five things you want to share with others about Jesus. Write them on a separate piece of paper. Imagine that these will be themes for five songs on a music CD you will cut to proclaim Jesus to youth today. Choose a title for your CD. Design this CD jacket promoting your message.



## Using Chapter 13—Baptism and Confirmation Part I: Baptized into New Life



### Preparing for Confirmation: Baptized into New Life

The Sacrament of Baptism is the doorway to the Christian life. Through Baptism we begin our initiation into the Church, the Body of Christ. Confirmation strengthens the graces of Baptism. Celebrating Eucharist renews our baptismal inheritance, nourishes us with the Body and Blood of Christ, joins us most fully to Jesus Christ and to one another, and is the pledge of eternal life. (See *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1275, 1285, 1303, and 1304.)

Baptized with water and the Holy Spirit, we are joined to Christ the Risen Savior and reconciled with God. We become members of the Church and are marked forever as belonging to Christ. We receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Both original sin and personal sins are forgiven in Baptism. We receive the grace to avoid sin and live as children of God. Through Baptism we enter a permanent relationship with God. That is why a person can be baptized only one time.

This lesson begins the immediate preparation of the young people for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Present this chapter in three sessions, discussing Baptism in this session and Confirmation in the next two sessions.

### Additional Resources

- **Blackline master:** “The Spirit of Jesus,” page 14. Use the activity as suggested in the supplemental lesson plan or in place of on-page activities in the student book.
- **Faith First** Grade 6 video, Segment 7, “Prayer”
- **Faith First** Junior High *Creed and Prayer* video, Segment 4, “Story of Faith”

## Begin the lesson . . .

Explain that the study of chapter 13 will take place in three sessions. Point out that this first session will focus on the Sacrament of Baptism and that the next two sessions will focus on the Sacrament of Confirmation.

### Guide Page 197

#### Student Page 113

- In CG use **PRAY** and **DISCOVER**.
- As you discuss the photo on page 113, clarify that older children and adults prepare to become members of the Church through a process called the Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA) and celebrate the three Sacraments of Christian Initiation, namely, Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil.
- Invite volunteers to share their experience of participating in the Easter Vigil or to talk about anyone they know who has participated in the RCIA.
- Redirect the students' attention to the Paschal, or Easter, candle shown in the photo on page 113. Point out that the Easter candle is a symbol of the Risen Christ. Share with the students that the Easter candle stands in the sanctuary and is lighted during the celebration of the Eucharist throughout the Easter season. Point out that after the celebration of the solemnity of Pentecost, the Easter candle is moved to the baptismal area. Share that it is lit during the celebration of Baptism and funerals throughout the year. Point out that this is a reminder that through our Baptism, we share in the hope of everlasting life that Jesus won for us by his saving death and Resurrection.

### Guide Page 198

#### Student Page 114

- Use **FOCUS** and **DISCOVER**.
- As you discuss the "Rite of Baptism," emphasize the significance of the use of water in the baptismal rite. Explain that in Baptism we die to sin and rise to new life in Christ.
- Refer to the photo on page 114 and point out the two ways that Baptism is celebrated, namely, by immersion or by having water poured over their head three times as the words "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" are proclaimed by the priest or deacon.
- Ask the students to name parts of the celebration of Baptism, namely, the newly baptized are anointed with chrism, receive a candle lighted from the Easter candle, and are clothed in white garments.
- Share with the students the significance of these three rites: (1) Anointing with chrism is a sign that the newly baptized person has received the gift of the Holy Spirit and is strengthened to live their new life in Christ; (2) Clothing with a white garment is a sign that they have received new life in Christ; (3) Receiving the lighted candle is a sign that they are to keep their gift of faith alive in this life and they have received the promise of eternal life.
- Summarize by reading aloud the prayer that accompanies the anointing with chrism:  
The God of power and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ / has freed you from sin / and brought you to new life / through water and the Holy Spirit. / He

now anoints you with the chrism of salvation, / so that, united with his people, / you may remain for ever a member of Christ / who is Priest, Prophet, and King.

- Explain that the titles "Priest," "Prophet," and "King" summarize the ministry of Christ. Point out that the anointing of the newly baptized is a sign that God had chosen them to continue the work of Christ.
- Distribute copies of the worksheet on page 14 of this booklet. Have the students work independently to complete it to reinforce their understanding and appreciation of the role of the Holy Spirit in their life. Allow time for the students to share their completed faith shields with the entire class.
- Continue with **REINFORCE** and **INTEGRATE**.
- As time permits view and discuss Segment 4 from the **Faith First** Grade 6 video, "Story of Faith" (15 minutes). Help the students make the connection between a newly baptized person's anointing and the responsibility to use one's gifts and talents to continue the work of Christ.

## Conclude the lesson . . .

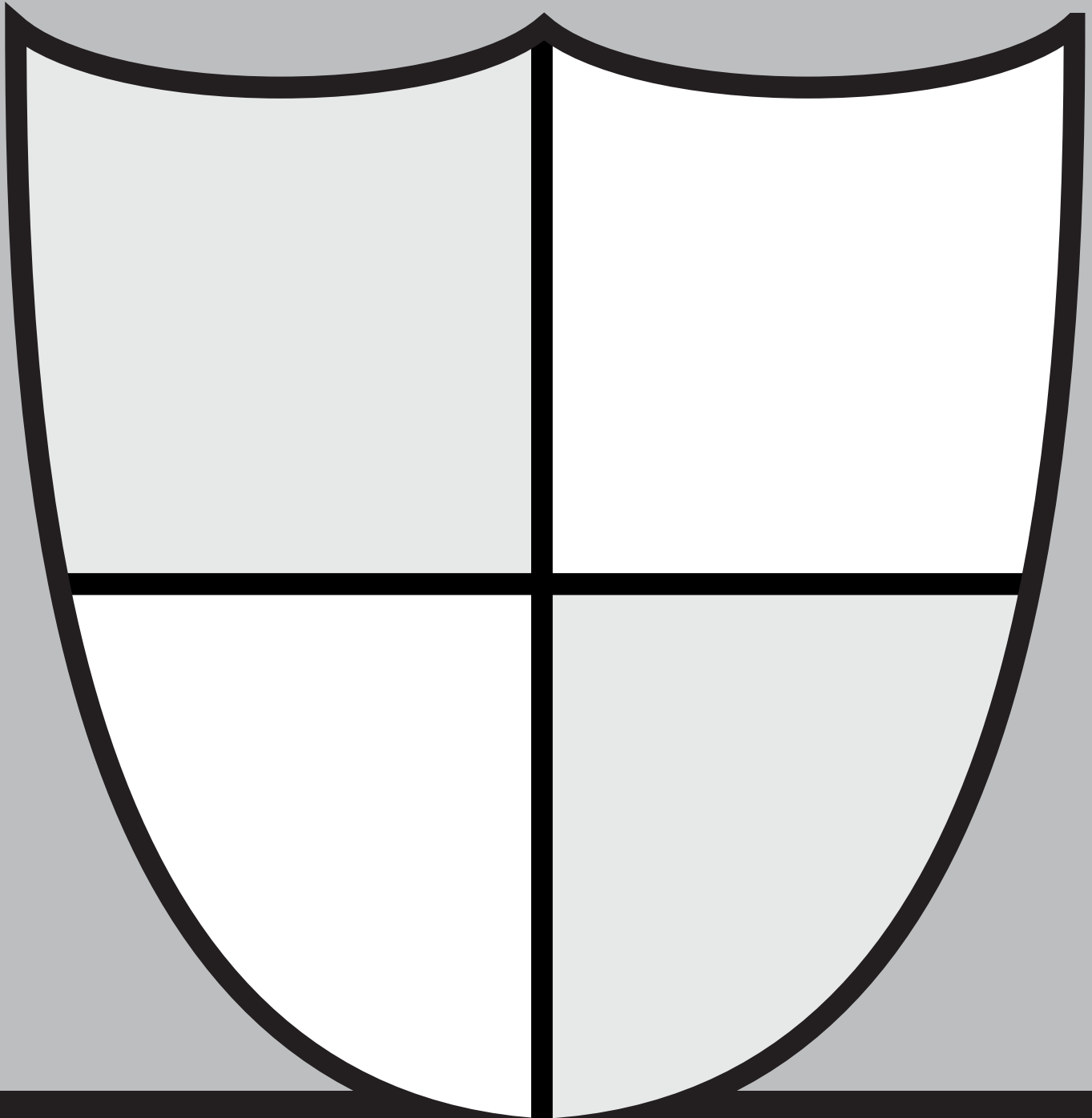
Use the prayer celebration on page 19 of this booklet to conclude the lesson. As an alternative, you might use Segment 7 of the **Faith First** Grade 6 video, "Prayer" (6 minutes) as a closing reflection.

# The Spirit of Jesus

Look up and read these gospel passages. Discover the role of the Spirit in the life and work of Jesus:

- Luke 2:25–32
- Luke 3:21–22
- Luke 4:1–13
- Luke 4:14–22
- Luke 11:13
- John 14:15–17, 25–26

**Create a faith shield, showing how you believe the Spirit is at work in your life.**



# Celebrating New Life Through Water and the Holy Spirit

## Faith Focus

Through Baptism we receive new life in Christ. Joined to Christ we receive the gift of the Spirit to continue the work of Christ in our world today.

## Objective

Celebrate that we are temples of the Holy Spirit.

## Getting Ready

Create a “Priest, Prophet, King” mural. Group the young people into three-member groups. Assign the role of “priest,” “prophet,” or “king” to one member of each group. Briefly describe the role of a priest, prophet, and king. For example: a priest leads the people in celebrating their faith in God; a prophet reminds people of how to live as a child of God; a king leads people in living as the people of God. Make available a variety of colored markers, paints, or other drawing materials and one large sheet of butcher paper. Have all the groups work together and design one large mural portraying young people living their life in Christ as “priests,” “prophets,” and “kings.”

## Preparation

Select an appropriate hymn, such as “We Have Been Baptized in Christ” (Oregon Catholic Press [OCP], 5536 N.E. Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213). Arrange a large clear bowl of water, a small dish containing sweet-scented oil, and a baptismal candle on a table in the prayer area. Practice singing the hymn you have chosen. Briefly talk about the meaning of the lyrics of the hymn to focus the young people on the theme of the celebration.

## And Now We Pray

### Gathering

*Invite the young people into the prayer area as you lead them in singing one verse of the hymn.*

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Leader: Father,  
we have been born to new life in  
Jesus Christ, your Son.  
Give us the grace to live as your children.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus our Lord.

All: Amen.

### Proclaiming the Word of God

Reader: (Proclaim Acts of the Apostles 1:6–8.)  
The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

*Invite the young people to reflect quietly on the Scripture reading and on their own baptism.*

### Professing the Faith of the Church

*Invite the young people to stand and renew their baptismal promises by praying the Apostles’ Creed.*

Leader: Let us join in renewing our baptismal promises.

Do you reject sin and promise to live as children of God?

All: I do.

Leader: Let us now profess our faith by praying the Apostles’ Creed.

All: I believe in God . . .

All: This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it, in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

### Dismissal

Leader: Remembering our baptism, let us keep the flame of faith alive in our hearts and walk always as children of the light.

*Sprinkle the young people with water. Then have them come forward to the table one at a time, touch the oil, and bless themselves.*

All: (Sing several verses of the hymn.)

## Using Chapter 13—Baptism and Confirmation Part 2: Witnesses for Christ



### Preparing for Confirmation: Witnesses for Christ

The New Testament reveals the presence of the Holy Spirit with Jesus throughout his life on earth, bringing to fulfillment the mission the Father entrusted to Jesus. When Jesus announced the nature of his mission, he proclaimed: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, / because he has anointed me to . . .” (Luke 4:18).

The essence of the rite of Confirmation is the anointing of the baptized with chrism on their forehead as the bishop, or priest delegated by the bishop, simultaneously lays his hand on the head of the one being confirmed, saying, “Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit” (*Rite of Confirmation* 27). The celebration of Confirmation continues the initiation of the baptized into the Church. Joined more closely to the Body of Christ, the Church, the baptized are more strictly obliged to spread the faith, both by word and by deed, and to strive to live as true witnesses of Jesus Christ. (See *Dogmatic Constitution on the Church* 11).

This lesson continues the immediate preparation of the young people for the Sacrament of Confirmation, using page 115 of the student book, which focuses on the rite and sacramental graces, or effects, of Confirmation.

### Additional Resources

- **Blackline master:** “Witnesses for Christ,” page 18. Use the activity as suggested in the supplemental lesson plan or in place of on-page activities in the student book.
- **Faith First** Junior High *Liturgy and Morality* video, Segment 2, *The Visual Bible™*, “Pentecost”



## Begin the lesson . . .

Remind the students that they are studying chapter 13 in three sessions. Recall that the first session focused on the Sacrament of Baptism. Point out that in this session they will begin the first part of their study of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

**Guide Page 199**  
**Student Page 115**

- Use **FOCUS**. Invite volunteers to name the three Sacraments of Christian Initiation. Remind the class that celebrating Confirmation and Eucharist completes a baptized person's full initiation into the Church, the Body of Christ.
- Recall the anointing with chrism that takes place at Baptism. Help the students remember that the anointing with chrism is a sign that the newly baptized person is empowered by the grace of the Holy Spirit to continue the work of Christ.
- Direct the students' attention to the photo on page 115 and have a volunteer describe what is portrayed in the picture (the anointing with chrism at Confirmation).
- Emphasize that the bishop is the ordinary minister of Confirmation. Point out that the bishop may delegate a priest to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation in special circumstances, for example, at the celebration of Confirmation in the parish at the Easter Vigil.
- Continue with **DISCOVER**. After reading "Confirmation," summarize by stating the essential rite for Confirmation:  
The sacrament of Confirmation is conferred through the anointing with chrism on the forehead, which is done by the laying on of the hand, and through

the words: "Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit."

APOSTOLIC CONSTITUTION  
ON THE SACRAMENT OF  
CONFIRMATION

- Use **REINFORCE**.
- As time permits, view and discuss Segment 2 of the **Faith First Liturgy and Morality** video, "Pentecost" (8 minutes) to help the students both understand the significance of the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples and prepare them for the next activity.
- List on the board the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, right judgment (counsel), courage (fortitude), knowledge, reverence (piety), and wonder and awe (fear of the Lord). Use page 29 of this booklet to review with the class the meaning of each of the seven gifts.
- Continue with **INTEGRATE**. Expand on the "A Living Witness for Christ" activity that the students completed on page 115 of the student text. Distribute copies of the worksheet on page 18 of this booklet. Have the students work in small groups to match each of the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit with one of the saints or Catholic heroes listed on the worksheet. Invite volunteers to share their responses and give reasons for their choices.
- Divide the class into seven groups and assign each group one of the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Invite the groups to create skits that illustrate how a young person their age can live the gift assigned to them. Then have each group present its skit to the class.

**Guide Page 200**  
**Student Page 116**

- Use **FOCUS** and **DISCOVER**.
- Ask volunteers to define the word *grace*. Then have them

check their definition with the definition in the glossary.

- Invite volunteers to explain what it means to be in the "state of grace." Summarize by helping them appreciate that being in the state of grace means being free from serious, or mortal, sin.
- Discuss with the class the specific requirements for receiving Confirmation in your parish. Help the students recognize that fulfilling these requirements helps them appreciate the seriousness of receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- Continue with **REINFORCE** and **INTEGRATE**.
- After the students complete the activity on page 116 in their texts and share the qualities they listed, make sure they understand the importance of choosing a sponsor who is a model of faith for them and who will help them live as witnesses for Christ.

## Conclude the lesson . . .

Use the prayer celebration on page 15 of this booklet or another appropriate celebration of your choice to conclude the lesson.

## Preparing for Session 3

- Arrange for five students from last year's Confirmation class to attend your next session to conduct a panel discussion on Confirmation.
- Have your students write out questions to ask the panel members about receiving Confirmation, how it has helped them to follow Jesus, and giving them advice in living as a confirmed member of the Church.

# Witnesses for Christ

The Church recognizes people whose lives were truly witnesses for Christ.

Read these names and think about the lives of each of these outstanding witnesses for Christ. Identify one of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit with each person. Write the person's name in the flame. Tell why you matched each name and gift.

Wisdom

Understanding

Right Judgment

Courage

Knowledge

Reverence

Wonder and Awe

Saint Katharine Drexel  
Saint Martin de Porres  
Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha  
Saint Isaac Jogues and companions  
Mother Teresa of Calcutta  
Blessed Pope John XXIII  
Saint Francis of Assisi

# Celebrating We Are Witnesses for Christ

## Faith Focus

Confirmation strengthens the grace received at Baptism and helps us bear witness to Christ in words and deeds.

## Objective

Celebrate that Confirmation calls us to be witnesses for Christ.

## Getting Ready

- Read aloud Luke 4:16–19 to the students.
- List on a piece of poster board the elements of Jesus' mission as described in the gospel reading:
  - Bring good news to the poor.
  - Proclaim release to captives.
  - Restore sight to the blind.
  - Free the oppressed.
  - Proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.
- Discuss with the students what each of these works of Jesus, the Messiah, may mean today.
- Brainstorm practical, appropriate ways that the students can continue these works of Christ today.
- Give each student a sheet of construction, art, or similar type of paper which can be used to make a scroll, and a brightly colored piece of ribbon. Instruct the students to write one of the statements listed on the poster board on the paper and describe or illustrate one way they can put this work of Christ into action. Provide brightly colored pencils and markers for the students to decorate their scrolls. When they are finished, have the students roll their scroll and tie it with the piece of ribbon. Tell the students that they will use their scrolls in the prayer celebration.

## Preparation

Select an appropriate hymn and practice it with the students. Some suggested hymns are “You Have Anointed Me” (Mike Balhoff, Damean Music, GIA Publications, 7404 South Mason Avenue, Chicago, IL 60638) or “The Spirit of God” (Lucien Deiss, C.S.Sp., World Library Publications, P.O. Box 2703, Schiller Park, IL 06176). Arrange a candle, a basket, and an open Bible on a table in the prayer area. Briefly talk about the lyrics of the hymn and relate them to the words in Luke 4:16–19.

## And Now We Pray

### Gathering

*Invite the students into the prayer area as you lead them in singing the hymn.*

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Leader: Lord,  
send us your Holy Spirit  
to help us walk in unity of faith  
and grow in the strength of his love  
to the full stature of Christ,  
who lives and reigns  
with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

*Ritual Mass for Confirmation B, Roman Missal*

All: Amen.

### Proclaiming the Word of God

Reader: A reading from the gospel according to Luke.  
(Proclaim Luke 4:16–19.)  
The gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

### Ritual: Accepting the Call to Live as a Witness for Christ

*Call each of the students forward one at a time by name and hand them a scroll. (They will not be receiving the scroll that they made, but one that someone else made.) As you hand a scroll to each student, say:*

(Name), the Spirit of the Lord is always with you as your helper and teacher.

*Play a recording of appropriate instrumental music and allow a few moments for the students to open and read the scroll they were given. Invite the students to quietly reflect on the Scripture reading and the application of the reading that is on their scroll. Encourage the students to make a commitment to live as witnesses for Christ.*

### Dismissal

Leader: God, our Father,  
keep the gifts of the Holy Spirit  
alive in our hearts  
to help us live as witnesses for Christ.

All: Amen.  
(Sing several verses of the hymn.)

## Using Chapter 13—Baptism and Confirmation Part 3: A Lifelong Commitment



### Preparing for Confirmation: A Lifelong Commitment

God's invitation to live a life of faith in communion with him calls us to a lifelong commitment. A life of faith involves the search for understanding the meaning of the mysteries of the faith of the Church. It also involves adopting a way of life. The desire and willingness of a baptized person to respond to the grace of the Holy Spirit and make such a commitment is an essential requirement for receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.

In Baptism we make promises that we are to live out the rest of our lives. When the Church baptizes infants, these promises are made in the infant's name by their parents and godparents. Those baptized as infants renew these promises in their own name during the rite of Confirmation. It is important to reread and reflect on the meaning of these promises and ask: Just what exactly is it that we promise at Baptism? How do we resolve to live the Great Commandment to love God and others as Jesus taught? How will we find the guidance and strength to reject evil?

How? . . . We are temples of the Holy Spirit. We have been graced with the gift of the Holy Spirit, who fills us with the gifts of wisdom, understanding, right judgment, courage, knowledge, reverence, and wonder and awe. Sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit we are empowered to keep our word and fulfill our promises.

This presentation continues the immediate preparation of the young people for the Sacrament of Confirmation, using page 116 of the student book.

### Additional Resources

- **Blackline master:** "Praying to the Holy Spirit," page 22. Use the activity as suggested in the supplemental lesson plan or in place of on-page activities in the student book.
- **Faith First** Junior High *Liturgy and Morality* video, Segment 8, "Prayer"

## Begin the lesson . . .

Tell the students that during this session they will focus on what it means to live the Sacrament of Confirmation.

- Begin with the panel discussion you arranged prior to the session with students from last year's Confirmation class. Plan 15 to 30 minutes for this discussion.
- Invite the older students to introduce themselves and tell something about their experience of preparing for and celebrating Confirmation.
- Invite your students to address the questions they wrote out prior to class for the panel. Tell the older students that any of them may answer the questions they are asked. Emphasize that their input will be more fruitful if several of them reply to the Confirmation candidates' questions.
- Have several questions prepared for the panel in the event the candidates' questions are repetitive. For example:
  - What made you choose the person who was your sponsor?
  - What part of the Confirmation rite had the greatest influence on you?
  - What difference has Confirmation made in your life?
- After the discussion, thank the older students for their participation and invite them to remember this year's Confirmation candidates in their prayers.
- Pray together the "Prayer to the Holy Spirit" on page 283 of the student text. Then dismiss the older students.

## Guide Page 201

### Student Page 117

- Use **HIGHLIGHT** and **DISCOVER**.
- As you discuss "Saint of the Holocaust" call attention to the fact that Pope John Paul II described Saint Maximilian Kolbe a "martyr for charity."
- Ask the students what the word *charity* means. Help them understand that charity is another word for love and point out that charity is one of the three theological virtues (the other two are faith and hope). Explain that the theological virtues are gifts of God that enable us to live a life of holiness, that is, a life in communion with the Holy Trinity.
- Have the students explain how Saint Maximilian lived the virtue of love.
- Ask the students to name one gift of the Holy Spirit exhibited by Saint Maximilian at Auschwitz. Responses will vary but may include courage in facing death, wisdom by recognizing that his relationship with God was more important than anything else, right judgment by demonstrating that his decision was based on his relationship with God, and so on.
- Continue with **INTEGRATE**.
- Talk with the class about the many ways your parish serves as a witness for Christ in the community. Work with the students to create a list of parish ministries and write the list on the board. Help the students describe the work of each ministry. Invite them to identify a ministry of the parish that they would like to participate in both now and when they are older.
- Distribute copies of the worksheet on page 22 of this

booklet. Explain the directions and allow time for the students to write their prayers.

Encourage the students to post their completed prayers in a location at home where they will see it frequently and be prompted to pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance in the preparation for receiving Confirmation.

## Guide Page 202

### Student Page 118

- Use **HIGHLIGHT** and **RESPOND**. Encourage the students to remember their mottos and to make every effort to live them in their daily lives.
- Continue with **CHOOSE**.

## Guide Page 203

### Student Page 119

- Review the important teachings presented in chapter 13 by having the students complete **WE REMEMBER**.
- Answer any questions the students may have about Confirmation.
- Remind the students to share the "With My Family" page with their parents.

## Conclude the lesson . . .

- Distribute copies of page 23 of this booklet. Have the students prepare for the closing prayer service by completing the "Getting Ready" activity.
- Choose a leader of prayer and two readers, one reader for the Scripture reading on the worksheet and another for the Scripture reading on page 119 of the text.
- Gather the students and pray the closing prayer service.
- For the dismissal use **WE PRAY** on page 119 of the student text.



# Celebrating the Spirit's Presence with Us

## Faith Focus

Confirmation strengthens the grace of our Baptism.

## Objective

Celebrate our commitment to live our baptismal promises.

## Getting Ready

- Give each student a 3" by 5" index card. On this card have the students write their baptismal name, their confirmation name, and their sponsor's name. Provide markers and brightly colored pencils and encourage the students to decorate the card, making it a unique statement of who they are.
- Hang a large sheet of butcher paper or poster board in the prayer area. If time allows, invite the students to decorate it with symbols of the Holy Spirit.

## Preparation

- Arrange a large bowl of water, a small dish containing sweet-scented oil, and a baptismal candle on the table in the prayer area.
- Select an appropriate hymn, such as "Send Us Your Spirit" (David Haas, GIA Publications, 7404 South Mason Avenue, Chicago, IL, 60638). Practice singing the hymn you have chosen. Briefly talk about the meaning of the lyrics of the hymn to focus the students on the theme of the celebration.

## And Now We Pray

### Gathering

*Invite the students to gather in the prayer area. Then lead them in singing the hymn.*

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ  
and the love of God and the  
fellowship of the Holy Spirit be  
with you all.

All: And also with you.

### Proclaiming the Word of God

Reader: (Proclaim Ephesians 4:1–6.)  
The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

*Invite the students to quietly reflect on the Scripture reading and on their call to faithfully live their baptismal promises.*

### Ritual: Celebrating the Spirit's Presence

*Read aloud the baptismal promises. Call each student forward and have them bring the card with their name on it, saying:*

(Name), you will renew your baptismal promises during the celebration of Confirmation. Always remember that the Holy Spirit is with you to help you live out those promises.

*Invite each student to tape their card to the poster board as a sign of their desire to accept responsibility for their commitment at Confirmation to renew their baptismal promises. Then have them bless themselves by making the sign of the cross, using the water in the bowl on the table.*

### Dismissal

Conclude with **We Pray** on page 119 of the student text.

# A Confirmation Retreat

Note: This retreat is designed for an entire day. By using only the shaded sections, the retreat can be completed in a shorter time period.

## Materials Needed

- Name tags
- Brightly colored markers
- Newsprint
- Tape
- Pencils
- Bible
- Candle
- Basket
- Prayer table
- Copies of the blackline master handouts
- Letter paper and envelopes

## Welcome and Gather

Greet each of the participants individually as they arrive. Provide name tags and brightly colored markers and invite the participants to create and decorate a name tag that identifies and describes them.

When everyone has arrived and finished making their name tags, welcome them. Present a brief overview of what will happen at the retreat. Use these or similar words to welcome the participants:

*I am happy that you are with us at this retreat. Does anyone know what a retreat is? Retreat comes from a French word meaning "to withdraw." There will be some quiet time and some prayer time, but we will also be active in groups. There will be time to get to know a little more about yourself and to discover ways God is working in your life now.*

*We will talk about Confirmation and ways that the Gifts of the Holy Spirit will be an active and vibrant part of your life. We will tell some stories. We will hear some people tell their stories. And we will do some fun things!*

*Let's begin.* (Lead the participants in the icebreaker activity.)

## Icebreaker Activity

Ask all the participants to sit on chairs, which are arranged to form a large circle. Tell the participants that you will make a statement, and if that statement applies to them, they are to get out of their chair and rush to sit in a different chair on the other side of the circle.

Use some statements that can apply to *some* of the participants, such as "Everyone with brown eyes." Use other statements that can apply to all of the participants, such as "Everyone who is in the sixth grade." Use some fun statements that will get the participants laughing, such as "Everyone who has a piece of useless junk in their pocket."

After you make the first few statements (and the participants get the idea of how the game is played), remove one of the chairs. This will leave one participant without a chair to sit on. Have that person stand in the middle of the circle, make the next statement, and run to find a chair when others move. Remember that not all participants will move with each statement. Conclude the activity by saying, "Everyone who is preparing for Confirmation." (Be sure at this time to replace the chair that you removed.)

All the participants should now be sitting on different chairs than the ones they were sitting on when they first arrived. Allow a few minutes for the participants to chat and laugh about the activity and to begin to settle down a bit.

Summarize, saying these or similar words:

*That was a fun way to discover how each of us is different from one another, but each of us also has one very important thing in common with one another: Each of us has been blessed by and created by God in his image and likeness.*



## Prayer and Scripture Reading

Invite the participants to stand and listen as you read the parable of the talents.

*Leader: A reading from the gospel according to Matthew.*

*All: Glory to you, Lord.*

*Leader: (Read Matthew 25:14–30.)*

*The word of the Lord.*

*All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

Ask the participants to be seated and distribute copies of the handout on page 28. Allow sufficient time for the participants to reflect on and answer each of the questions. Invite volunteers to share how they responded to the questions. Then conclude with one of the participants reading this prayer:

*God, our Father, open our minds and hearts to the teachings of the Spirit. May we use our talents to spread the message of Jesus, your Son. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## Story

Have the participants sit comfortably as you tell this story.

*There was a young boy named Gianni who lived in a small village nestled in the mountains of northern Italy. Tucked into the hills were rock quarries containing marble. Every day Gianni would walk to school, winding his way through the narrow streets of the village past all the stores and shops and houses. On his way home, he always paused and spent some time at the workshop of Giuseppi the sculptor. It was fun to watch him work as he used his hammers and chisels. Gianni was especially excited one day when a large block of glistening white marble appeared in Giuseppi's workshop. Every day, Gianni would rush out of school to stand at the door of Giuseppi's workshop. Gianni watched curiously as the block of marble slowly changed its shape. Then one day when Gianni gazed into the workshop, there it was, looking straight at him—a huge statue of a lion. He was amazed and turned to Giuseppi and asked, "How did you find the lion in that big piece of marble?" "Easy," responded Giuseppi. "I simply chipped away everything that was not the lion."*

## Connection

Discuss the story with the participants. Use these or similar points:

1. You cannot always tell who a person is or what a person is like by merely looking at the person's outside. Looking beyond the outside of a person (chipping away at the marble) can help us discover who a person really is.
2. Each person has strengths and weaknesses.
3. Growing as a responsible Christian includes discovering our qualities, developing those qualities, and using them to live our faith. God works in us and through us to build on the gifts that each of us has been given.

Explain that at this retreat today, we are going to spend some time reflecting on the gifts that God has given us. The challenge now is to work with the Spirit and develop our gifts. Let's begin by identifying those positive qualities that are important for a person to have.

## Group Activity

Introduce the group activity by asking the participants to talk about people they respect and admire. Use these or similar words:

*All of you know people you respect and admire. Who is someone you look up to? Who are some well-known people you look up to? What other people do you look up to? Which saints do you look up to? Think about why you look up to these people. Think about some of the qualities these people possess that you admire. Talk about some of the positive qualities that these people possess.*

Divide the participants into groups of four or five. Have each group brainstorm and list on a sheet of newsprint at least five qualities they look for in persons they admire. Then have the group choose and circle the three most important qualities on this list.

Gather the whole group together. Discuss and share the top three qualities circled from the list made by the individual groups. From this discussion have all the participants decide on the five most important qualities for them as a group. Write these on a sheet of newsprint.

## Presentation: The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Use these or similar words to begin a discussion of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

*Together, we have identified qualities that we look for and admire in other people. How do we discover that someone has one or more of these gifts? It is because we see people using their gifts. We cannot see wisdom, but we can see the ways that people act wisely.*

*We too are called to develop our gifts in the same way as the people in the parable of the talents. Three people received gifts and were accountable for their gifts to their master. We must develop our gifts and talents. The Holy Spirit dwelling within us helps us do this.*

Give a copy of the handout on page 27 to each participant. Discuss and explain the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Allow time for the participants to quietly reflect on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and to respond to the questions.

## Activity

Have the participants create a skit that depicts people their age using the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Form seven groups and assign one of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit to each of the seven groups. Encourage the participants to role-play a situation that portrays the use of the gift of the Holy Spirit assigned to their group.

## Personal Witness to the Gifts of the Spirit

One aspect of the Church's life is the faithful living of their Baptism by sharing their gifts. Illustrate a situation of someone giving witness to Christ by sharing their gifts. This could be done in several ways. For example:

1. Invite one or several of the group leaders of the retreat day to share their reflections on what the Holy Spirit means to them.
2. View and discuss a video that shows how people use the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in their lives.
3. Invite the participants to role-play the story of some of the people who are important in the history of the Church in the United States of America, in your diocese, or in your parish.

## Activity: Identifying Your Gifts

Involve participants in an activity that will help them identify the gifts that others see in them and the gifts that they see in themselves. Have them write a letter that will be used in the closing prayer celebration, thanking God for these gifts.

- Tape a cutout copy of the flame from the handout on page 30 to each participant's back.
- Tell all the participants to walk around the room and write on each other's flame a positive quality that they see in that person.
- After sufficient time, have the participants sit down in a comfortable position and take the list of positive qualities from their backs. Let them read the list.
- Play some appropriate music for reflection. Invite each participant to reflect on what these gifts and qualities mean to them.
- Distribute letter paper and envelopes and invite the participants to write a letter to God. This letter should include three parts: naming some of their gifts, thanking God for their gifts, and telling ways in which they will use these gifts.
- When everyone has written the letter, tell the participants that they will offer their letter to God during the closing prayer.

## Closing Prayer Celebration

Gather the participants for prayer. Play a recording of reflective music to help the participants focus. On the prayer table place an open Bible, a candle, and a basket.

*Leader: Light and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord!*

*All: Thanks be to God.*

*Leader: Let us give thanks to God our Father, always and for everything.*

*All: In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.*

*Reader: (Proclaim Matthew 5:14–16.)*

*Leader: Let us spend a few minutes quietly reflecting on the words of Jesus and the meaning of those words for our lives. Think about all that we did together at this retreat, and reflect on ways that you can be lights to the world.*

After some time for quiet reflection, continue playing music and invite the participants to bring the letter that they wrote to God and reverently place it in the basket. When all the participants have placed their letter in the basket, invite everyone to sing.

*Response:* (Sing “We Are the Light of the World” [Jean A. Grief, GIA Publications, 7404 South Mason Avenue, Chicago, IL 60638] or another appropriate song.)

*All:* (Provide a copy of the handout “Prayer to the Holy Spirit” on page 31. Have the participants take the prayer home as a reminder of the retreat day.)  
Pray the “Prayer to the Holy Spirit.”

*Leader: Good and gracious God,  
thank you for blessing us with your gifts.  
Fill us with your Holy Spirit  
so that we can truly see these gifts  
and use them to bring the good news of Jesus  
to the world.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus our Savior  
and Brother.*

*All: Amen.*

Invite all to share a sign of peace with one another, encouraging one another to be lights to the world, using these or similar words:

*(Name), peace be with you. Go forth and be a light to the world.*



# The Parable of the Talents

Matthew 25:14-30

1. What is the one thing you remember about the parable of the talents?

2. What would you say to the master when he returns?

3. What would the master say to you in response?

# Sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit

At Confirmation we are sealed with the sevenfold Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Read and reflect on the description of each of the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Choose one of the Gifts. Write about or illustrate a situation in the three panels that shows how that gift might enable a young person to live their faith.

**Wonder and awe, or fear of the Lord** enables us to acknowledge the greatness and power of God through our trust and obedience to God.

**Wisdom** enables us to value God above all creatures and to make decisions based on that value.

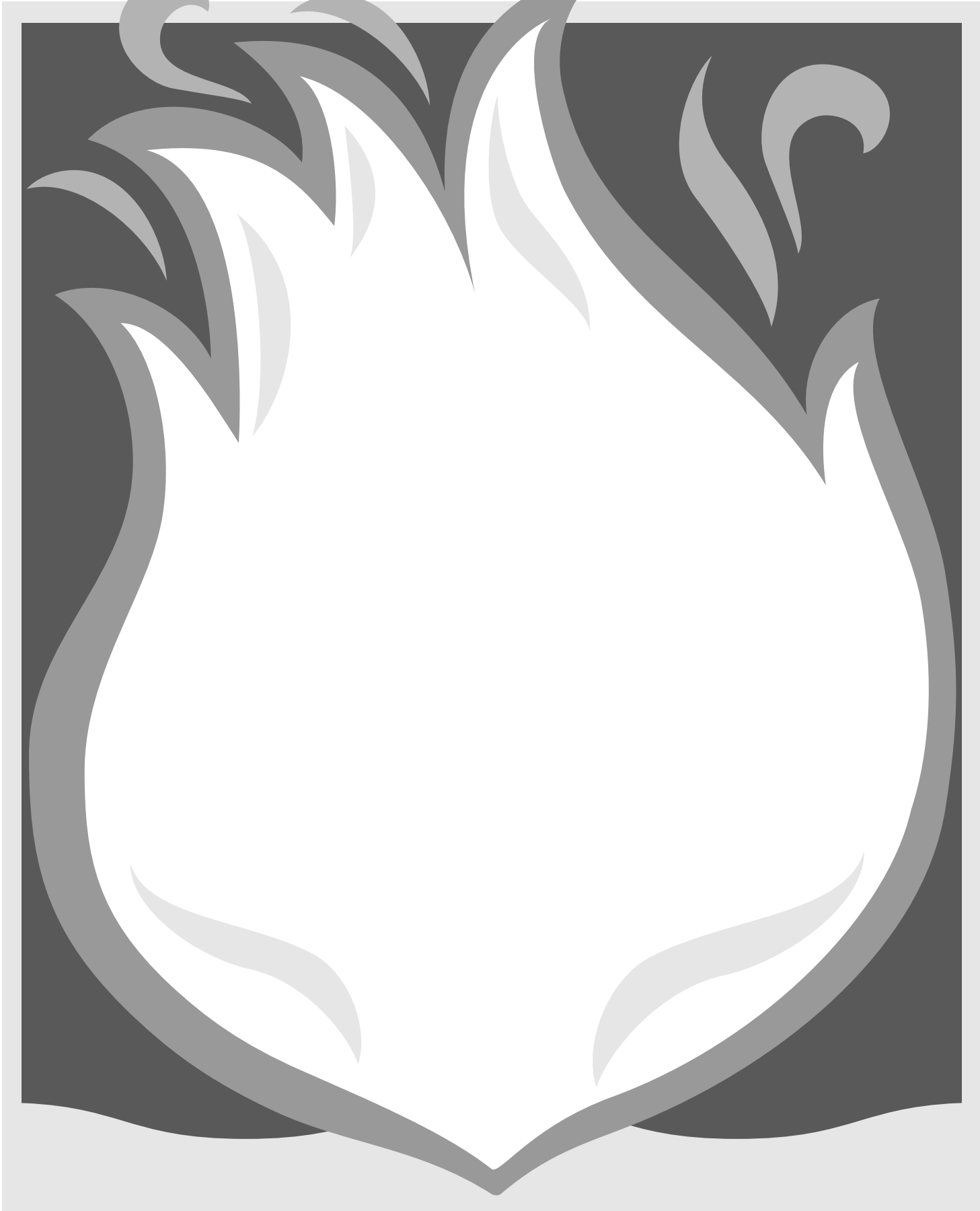
**Reverence, or piety,** enables us to honor and respect God and all people as children and images of God.

**Understanding** enables us to discover the meaning of our faith and to live according to its teachings.

**Right judgment, or counsel,** enables us to make practical decisions to live our faith.

**Courage, or fortitude,** enables us to overcome obstacles that stand in our way of loving God and others.

**Knowledge** enables us to see God reflected in all creatures and to praise him.





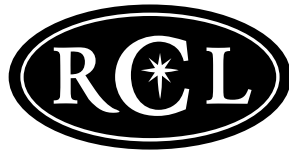
Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come,  
Holy Spirit,  
fill the hearts  
of your  
faithful.

And kindle in  
them the fire of your love.

Send forth your Spirit  
and they shall be created.

And you will  
renew  
the face  
of the  
earth.



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