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# Doctrine Overview: Confirmation

The foundation of the Christian life is formed by the unity of the three Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist (CCC 1212). Catechists must stress to their students that "Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace" (CCC 1285).

What the Prophets of the Old Testament foretold regarding the Messiah who would be anointed with the Spirit of God, and what Jesus the promised Messiah fulfilled in receiving the Holy Spirit at his baptism by John, comes to fruition also in the believer through the Sacrament of Confirmation. This forge of grace in which the work of Baptism is fully sealed by the fire of the Holy Spirit was passed on through the Church by the Apostles and their successors, the bishops, down to the present day. Just as Christ's life and mission were always fully consecrated to the Holy Spirit, so now in Confirmation is the believer fully consecrated to the Holy Spirit to make him manifest in the Church and in the world. (CCC 1286-1289)

The anointing with sacred chrism which takes place in Confirmation is pregnant with symbolism which reveals the mystery of grace taking place. For millennia, anointing with oil has accomplished and evoked many things: "...oil is a sign of abundance and joy; it cleanses...limbers...is a sign of healing...and it makes radiant with beauty, health, and strength" (CCC 1293). These are visible in the anointing found in Baptism and Confirmation, highlighting the unity of these two Sacraments.

Just as the Apostles experienced the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, so does the confirmand

receive the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Confirmation. A deeper unity is established with Christ and his Church, endowing one with the gifts of the Holy Spirit and indelibly marking the soul with the seal of the Holy Spirit. The confirmand is fortified with strength and zeal. In this way, the common priesthood of the faithful in Christ begun in Baptism is brought to completion, thus equipping one to be an authentic witness of Christ in word and action (CCC 1302-1305).

## How the Sacrament is Celebrated

In the Latin Church, Confirmation is normally administered by a bishop, and like Baptism it is received only once. When celebrated separately from Baptism as it normally is in the Latin Church, the Confirmation liturgy begins with a renewal of Baptismal promises to stress the unity of Confirmation and Baptism. Later, the bishop anoints each person with sacred chrism on the forehead, saying, "Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit". (CCC 1300, 1304)

All baptized Catholics should receive Confirmation. The confirmand should first receive the Sacrament of Penance in order to be

in the state of grace, and should further prepare by intense prayer. The confirmand also should have a sponsor who will help them spiritually to prepare, and to persevere in the grace of this Sacrament afterwards. A baptismal Godparent is an excellent choice given the connection of Baptism and Confirmation (CCC 130).

**“Just as the Apostles experienced the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, so does the confirmand receive the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Confirmation.”**

# Restored Order Background

*There is a great deal of variation from diocese to diocese for the age of confirmation in the United States. The Sacrament of Confirmation can be celebrated at any time between the age of discretion and sixteen years. It has been determined that a single catechesis cannot be assigned for this sacrament.*

*See National Directory for Catechesis, 36 A, 2.*



In the early Church, Christian Initiation was one event. Adults or children were baptized, anointed, or had hands laid upon them, and then participated in the Eucharist, all at the same celebration. For a variety of reasons this practice gradually became separated into three different events. In 1910, Pius X recommended in his encyclical *Quam Singulari* that the First Communion of children should not be deferred too long after they had reached the age of reason. Previous to his urging, children who had been baptized as infants usually celebrated First Communion in the early teen years, and Confirmation usually was celebrated at an earlier age. However, once children began to participate fully in the Eucharist at an earlier age, the age for Confirmation was varied and not necessarily tied to reception of First Communion.

The Second Vatican Council called for the restoration of the Catechumenate and the revision of all the sacramental rituals. When the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, which also includes children of catechetical age, was issued, it restored the order of the Sacraments of Initiation.

**“Once children began to participate fully in the Eucharist at an earlier age, the age for Confirmation was varied and not necessarily tied to reception of First Communion.”**

As a result, many dioceses and parishes throughout the United States have adopted the practice of celebrating Confirmation prior to First Communion. This is often referred to as *Restored Order*.

Some of these dioceses celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation at the same Eucharistic celebration in which children celebrate their First Communion.

Other dioceses celebrate at a different time, but before First Communion.

Other dioceses choose to celebrate Confirmation sometime after First Communion. All of these practices are approved by the United States Bishops Conference, which has given approval to the celebration of Confirmation for children baptized as infants anytime between the ages of seven and sixteen.

*Call to Celebrate: Eucharist* includes two sessions for those parishes that are practicing restored order. These sessions are found on pages CE23–44 of the *Catechist Edition*. If you are preparing children for both sacraments, use these sessions after session one. For *Family Guide* pages for the two additional lessons for Restored Order, visit [www.osvcurriculum.com](http://www.osvcurriculum.com).

## For Reflection

- What are the positive implications for Restored Order of Confirmation?



# Sunday Connection

## Bulletin Inserts, General Intercessions, and Parish Blessings

Use these as a way to involve the parish assembly in the preparation for sacraments.

### Eucharist 1 We Belong

**Bulletin Insert** During the week, our young people who are preparing to receive Holy Communion will be reflecting about Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist. Join them by taking time to think about the effect that belonging to the Church has on your daily life.

**Intercession** For young people preparing for Holy Communion, that they may be encouraged by the living faith of this assembly.

**Parish Blessing** God, our loving Father, these young people come before you as your children. They belong to you. Send the Holy Spirit upon them as they begin this time of preparation so that they may come to know your presence in all they do. We ask this blessing through Christ our Lord.

### Preparing for Confirmation

#### RO1 Gifts of the Holy Spirit

**Bulletin Insert** During the week, our young people who are preparing to celebrate Confirmation and Holy Communion will be reflecting on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Join them by taking time to think about how those Gifts are active in your life today.

**Intercession** For young people preparing for Confirmation and Holy Communion, that they may be open to receiving the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

**Parish Blessing** God, our loving Father, these young people come before you seeking the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Open their hearts and minds to his presence and grant them knowledge of his power. We ask this blessing through Christ our Lord.

#### RO2 We Are Holy

**Bulletin Insert** During the week, our young people who are preparing to celebrate Confirmation and Holy Communion will be reflecting on the call to holiness. Join them this week by reflecting on your own witness to the person and message of Jesus.

**Intercession** For young people preparing for Confirmation and Holy Communion, that they may see in this community many witnesses to holiness.

**Parish Blessing** God, our loving Father, these young people come before you yearning to be like your Son, Jesus. Send them the Holy Spirit that their eyes may be opened and their hearts set on fire with love and knowledge of him. We ask this blessing through Christ our Lord.

Go to pp. 82-83 for the Sunday Connection information for the remainder of the Eucharist sessions.



# Catechist Orientation

## Goals

- To welcome catechists in a hospitable environment
- To affirm the important role of the catechist
- To reflect on the catechists' experience of Confirmation
- To inform the catechists about *Call to Celebrate: Eucharist* with emphasis on the Confirmation (Restored Order) sessions:
  - the philosophy of the program
  - the content
  - the resources available

## Materials

- Beverages and light refreshments
- Nametags
- Copies of *Call to Celebrate: Eucharist Child's Book*
- Copies of *Call to Celebrate: Eucharist Catechist Edition*
- *Songs of Celebration* CD
- A prayer table covered in a white cloth with a candle and a Bible on a stand, a clear glass bowl with water, and a branch or other instrument for sprinkling
- Matches or lighter

## Welcome and Opening Prayer (30 minutes)

**Welcome** the catechists and distribute nametags.

**Begin** the session with welcoming words and introduce yourself.

**Have** the catechists introduce themselves to one another.

**Review** the goals and agenda for the gathering.

**Gather** the group around the prayer setting.

**Begin** the prayer by singing or listening to "We Are Marching," *Songs of Celebration* CD, track 2.

**Light** the candle and lead the catechists in the following reflection. Pause after each question.

- Recall your own Confirmation day.
- Where was it? Who was there?
- Can you recall any significant things that happened that day?
- Do you remember any feelings you may have had during the ceremony?
- How were you prepared for the event?

**Invite** catechists to share any significant memories they may have of their own Confirmation.

**Read** *John 14:15–26*.

**Allow** silent reflection.

**Pause** and then discuss the question:

- How do you want the children you will be catechizing to hear the message of this Gospel?

**Close** with a blessing. Ask the catechists to stand, and extend your hands over them as you say:

*Lord God, in your loving kindness strengthen and direct these catechists. Let your Spirit uphold them as they prepare to share their time and talent with your children. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## Program Overview (15 minutes)

**Distribute** copies of the *Catechist Guide*, *Child's Book*, *Songs of Celebration* CD, and the *Family Guide* for *Call to Celebrate: Eucharist*.

**Explain** what each is for and have catechists page through them.

**Discuss** any questions the catechists may have about the Restored Order of Confirmation. Refer catechists to p. ix of the *Catechist Edition*.

## Scope and Sequence

**Invite** catechists to turn to the Table of Contents on p. iii of the *Catechist Edition*. Point out the articles in the front pages and the Catholic Source Book and Program Resources in the back pages.

**Note** the two sessions devoted to Confirmation are in the *Catechist Edition*.

**Point out** that the Confirmation lessons follow Chapter 1. If you have a different schedule for these sessions, let the catechists know that.

**Turn** to the Scope and Sequence section on pp. vi–vii. Explain that a scope and sequence gives the overview of the content for each chapter. Note each of the features in the left column and go through one chapter column to explain the format. Go through the Ritual Focus row and show that the flow of the chapters is based on the Order of the Mass.

**Note** that the Confirmation sessions are based on the Rite of Confirmation.

## Lesson Overview (30 minutes)

### Child's Book

**Use** Session 1 of the Confirmation chapter, "Gifts of the Spirit," (pp. CE23–33) to show the three-step process of a session:

#### Celebrate

- celebration and reflection

#### Remember

- proclamation and breaking open the Bible reading
- teaching the doctrine
- learning about the ritual action of the sacrament

#### Live

- making connections to their lives and their families

**Point out** the Faith at Home boxes in the Remember section and the Signs of Faith feature on the Celebrate and Remember pages.

### Catechist Edition

**Use** Chapter 4 of the *Catechist Edition* as a guide.

**Familiarize** catechists with the background and resources in the left-hand column on p. 32A.

**Encourage** them to read and reflect on the essay in the main column as they are planning their lessons. Note the reflection questions and Catechist Prayer.

**Review** the planner on p. 32B. Note the materials needed for each lesson, and have catechists turn to the pages noted to find the Activity Master CE9 and the Echo Pantomime CE10. Go through the Echo Pantomime with the catechists, and show the variety of Scripture Resources.

**Go** to pp. 32–41. Alert catechists that the side wrap gives a step-by-step lesson plan for the *Child's Book* pages, and the bottom boxes give them additional background, activities, and tips. Have them page through the lesson, and ask for any questions.

**Turn** to the Catholic Source Book, pp. 82–105. Have catechists page through it and notice the additional activities provided in the wrap.

**Break** for refreshments and conversation.

## Administrative Details (10 minutes)

**Elicit** any questions the catechists have about the components and resources.

**Allow** time for administrative details, such as calendars and class lists.

**Remind** them of the next session, which will be catechist training on liturgical catechesis. This is the method they will be using throughout the program.

**Ask** them to read pp. iv–xv before the training session.

## Closing Prayer (10 minutes)

**Gather** the catechists in a circle around the prayer space.

**Sing** "We Are Marching," *Songs of Celebration* CD, track 2.

**Make** the Sign of the Cross and say:

*Let us call to mind the goodness of God who gives us all good things. I bless you with this water to remind you of the gift of your Baptism and your call to hand on the faith. (Sprinkle the group with water.) Let us join in the prayer—that Jesus has taught us.*

**Pray** the Lord's Prayer together.

**Thank** catechists for their attendance.



# Catechist Training

## Goals

- To introduce the method of liturgical catechesis
- To present the underlying meaning of the Sacrament of Eucharist
- To show how to design a prayer space and lead prayer
- To explain sacraments as actions of a faith community

## Advance Preparation

**Familiarize** yourself with the ritual action in the opening prayer.

**Select** three persons to carry the holy water, candle, and Bible in procession.

**Rehearse** the suggested song, "Yes Lord, I Believe," *Songs of Celebration* CD, track 7.

## Materials

- A table covered with a white cloth
- A Bible on a stand
- A large candle
- Candles for each participant
- Matches or a lighter
- A large, clear glass bowl with water
- Plants and flowers, if appropriate
- *Songs of Celebration* CD
- Poster board or chart paper
- *Eucharist Stories of Celebration* video
- Copies of the following articles from [www.osvcurriculum.com](http://www.osvcurriculum.com):
  - "What Is Liturgical Catechesis?"
  - "How to Lead Prayer"
  - "Role of the Prayer Leader"
  - "What Is a Sacrament?"
  - "Eucharist"
  - "Confirmation"

## Opening Prayer Service and

### Reflection (20 minutes)

**Sing** together, "Yes Lord, I Believe," *Songs of Celebration* CD, track 7.

As you sing, walk forward slowly. Follow the people carrying the holy water, candle, and Bible.

**Lead** the opening prayer.

**Leader:** Let us begin. God, our loving Father, we are gathered here in your presence. We belong to you. Send us your Holy Spirit to help us live as disciples of your Son, Jesus. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

**Leader:** On the day of our Baptism, we were claimed for Christ. By water and the Holy Spirit we received the gifts of faith and new life. On that day the faithful remembered their baptismal promises. Today let us once again remember those promises together. Please come

forward and gather around the holy water and candle.

Do you say "no" to sin, so that you can live always as God's children?

**All:** We do.

**Leader:** Do you believe in God, the Father almighty?

**All:** We do.

**Leader:** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord?

**All:** We do.

**Leader:** Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**All:** We do.

**Leader:** This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it in Christ Jesus.

**All:** Amen.

**Leader:** Let us come to the water and thank God for the gift of our Baptism. Please come to the water and make the Sign of the Cross with the water.

When everyone has made the Sign of the Cross, light small candles from the large candle and distribute them to each catechist, saying:

[Name], You are the light of Christ. Have catechists return to their seats.

**Leader:** *Loving God, we belong to you. We are your children. In Baptism we were united to your Son, Jesus. Open our hearts to the Holy Spirit as we remember our Baptism. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord;*

**All:** *Amen.*

**Leader:** *The Lord be with you.*

**All:** *And with your spirit.*

**Leader:** *A reading from the holy Gospel of John.*

**All:** *Glory to you, O Lord.  
Read John 15:1–12.  
The Gospel of the Lord.*

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

**Leader:** *Consider these questions for reflection and discussion: What image or phrase is important for you in this reading? What do Jesus' words "Remain in me as I remain in you" mean for you today?*

*When the discussion is finished, continue the prayer.*

*Let us stand and pray as Jesus taught us.*

*Pray the Lord's Prayer together.*

*Let us offer each other the Sign of Peace.*

## Reflection on Prayer (20 minutes)

If there are a large number of catechists, organize them into smaller groups of 5 to 6 participants.

**Invite** catechists to recall the ritual moments of the celebration. Do a guided meditation using prompts from the celebration. Pause after each prompt.

**Pause** for a few minutes of silence. Then invite the groups to share their feelings about the celebration in their small group. Encourage them to stay with their feelings. After 5 to 7 minutes, invite sharing with the large group.

## Naming (20 minutes)

**Ask** the participants to name what they learned about God, Jesus, the Church, or their own Christian life from the celebration.

**Take** each category separately and list their responses on the board or on chart paper. Use phrases from their lists to summarize what they have said about faith, sacrifice, and service. Comment on how much "content" they came up with.

**Distribute** the article, "What Is Liturgical Catechesis?" Summarize the main parts of the article, and explain that this is the model of catechesis upon which *Call to Celebrate* is based. Encourage catechists to read the article at a later time.

*Rotation and Break (5 minutes)*

## Setting up a Prayer Space and

### Leading Prayer (30 minutes)

**Gather** catechists around the prayer space and pass out the "How to Lead Prayer." Describe how you set up the space. Give catechists ideas on setting up a prayer space in their meeting place. Note where and how they can obtain materials for the space, and emphasize the importance of a prayer environment.

**Distribute** the article, "Role of the Prayer Leader," and summarize it with the catechists. Practice leading the procession and prayer gestures with them.

*Rotation and Break (5 minutes)*

## A Theology of Sacrament and Eucharist

(30 minutes)

**Play** Part 3 of the *Eucharist Stories of Celebration* video. After catechists have viewed the video, use the questions in the guide for discussion.

**Summarize** these important points:

- Sacraments are *actions* of God and a faith community.
- In the Eucharist, we *share in a meal* during which we are fed with the Body and Blood of Jesus.
- The Eucharist is the community's great prayer of thanksgiving.

**Distribute** the articles, "What Is a Sacrament?" "Eucharist," and "Confirmation." Encourage catechists to read the articles later.

## Closing Blessing (5 minutes)

**Thank** the catechists for attending the session.

**Extend** your hands over the catechists and pray in these or similar words:

*God, the Father of mercies, has sent his Son into the world. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, may you continue to be transformed into the Body of Christ and witness his love in the world. Amen.*



## Confirmation/Eucharist (Restored Order)

# Parent Orientation

### Goals

- To welcome parents and families in a hospitable environment
- To affirm the importance of parental and family participation in the process
- To inform parents and families about the **Call to Celebrate: Eucharist** program with the Confirmation component for Restored Order
- To inform parents and families about the parish policies and procedures relating to the celebration of Confirmation and First Communion

### Environment

- Clearly identify the meeting place, posting clear directions if necessary
- Arrange tables and chairs for small groups
- Set up a prayer space with a large candle, a Bible on a stand, a clear bowl filled with water, and a branch or other instrument for sprinkling

Additional *Family Guide* pages for Restored Order sessions can be found at [www.osvcurriculum.com](http://www.osvcurriculum.com).

### Materials

- Beverages and light refreshments
- Nametags
- Copies of *Call to Celebrate: Eucharist Family Guide* and *Child's Book*
- Copies of the reproduced Restored Order Confirmation sessions from the *Catechist Edition*, pp. CE25–33 and pp. CE36–44
- Copies of the reproduced catechist pages, pp. CE23–24 and pp. CE34–35 (only for parents doing preparation in the home)
- *Songs of Celebration* CD
- *Eucharist Stories of Celebration* video and guide
- Copies of the following from [www.osvcurriculum.com](http://www.osvcurriculum.com):
  - **Parent Orientation Restored Order Handouts 1 and 2**
  - “Restored Order”
  - “Celebrating Rituals at Home—Letter”
  - **At Home Ritual Preparation Handouts 1–10**

## Welcome and Opening Prayer

**Welcome** parents and other adults and distribute nametags.

**Introduce** yourself and briefly review the goals and agenda for the gathering.

**Gather** the group around the prayer space, or have them pause for a reflective moment.

**Begin** the prayer by singing or listening to “Yes Lord, I Believe!” from the *Songs of Celebration* CD, track 7.

**Light** the candle and lead parents in the following reflection. Pause after each question:

- Recall your own Confirmation day.
- Recall significant things that happened that day or during your preparation.

**Invite** parents and family members to share with one or two other persons in the group any significant memories they have of their own First Communion. Distribute **Parent Orientation Restored Order Handout 1**.

**Call** the group back together and lead the parents and family members in the Parent's Prayer.

## View Video

**Show** Parts 1 and 2 of the *Eucharist Stories of Celebration* video. Use the questions in the video guide for discussion.

## Discuss Restored Order

**Use** the “Restored Order” article to highlight the important points of celebrating Confirmation before or with the reception of First Holy Communion.

**Make** the point that there are three Sacraments of Initiation, and full participation in the Eucharist is the fullness of initiation.

**Break** for refreshments and conversation.

## The Call to Celebrate: Eucharist Program

**Distribute** the *Child's Book* and the reproducible child pages from the *Catechist Edition*, pp. CE25–33 and pp. CE36–44. Lead the parents and family members through the Table of Contents.

**Point out** that the program:

- introduces the child to an understanding of the Sacrament of Confirmation and the Eucharist.

- is a preparation for a lifetime of celebrating the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the gift of Jesus in the Eucharist.
- introduces children to both the Sacrament of Confirmation and the Sacrament of the Eucharist through rituals and prayers.

**Use** one chapter of the reproduced pages or the *Child's Book* to show parents and family members the process of a session:

#### **Celebrate**

- celebration and reflection

#### **Remember**

- proclamation and breaking open the Scripture reading
- teaching the doctrine
- learning about the ritual action of the sacrament

#### **Live**

- making connections to their lives and their families

**Highlight** the three Faith at Home features in the reproduced pages and the *Child's Book*.

**Emphasize** the importance of doing the activities on the Faith at Home page.

**Describe** the *Call to Celebrate: Eucharist Family Guide* using one of the two implementation models.

### **\* For programs in which the catechesis is done in a group with a catechist and includes family support**

**Distribute** the *Call to Celebrate: Eucharist Family Guide*. Point out the differences in the two parts:

- the first part is a reflection tool for parents.
- the second part is a guide for doing home preparation.

**Mention** the availability of the *Songs of Celebration* CD, which will enhance their time with the child and support the child's learning.

**Distribute** Restored Order Parent Orientation Handout 2 and go through the frequently asked questions with parents and family members.

**Go** to Parish Policies and Procedures.

### **\* For programs in which the catechesis is done in the home**

**Distribute** the *Call to Celebrate: Eucharist Family Guide* and the reproduced *Catechist Edition* pages for the two Confirmation sessions. Point out the difference in the two parts of the guide:

- the first part is a reflection tool for parents.
- the second part is a guide for doing home preparation.

**Go** through one session of the *Family Guide* and one of the reproduced Confirmation *Catechist Edition* pages, and explain how to use the outline. Point out:

- the parent background essay.
- the easy-to-follow overview.
- the People of Faith story for each session and the importance of telling these stories to children.

**Emphasize** how essential the ritual prayer is to the session. Go through the prayer as it is written in the session and talk about ways to prepare a prayer space and environment at home.

**Distribute** Restored Order Parent Orientation Handout 2, "Celebrating Rituals at Home-Letter," and At Home Ritual Preparation Handouts 1-10.

### **Parish Policies and Procedures**

**Explain** the commitment the parish expects of parents and family members for this preparation.

**Distribute** appropriate schedules or calendars.

### **Closing Prayer**

**Gather** the parents and family members in a circular grouping around the prayer space.

**Begin** with the Sign of the Cross, and say these or similar words:

*Let us call to mind the goodness of God who gives us all good things. I bless you with this water to remind you of the gift of your Baptism and your call to hand on the faith. (Sprinkle the group with water.)*

**Sing** "Yes Lord, I Believe!" from *Songs of Celebration* CD, track 7.

**Pray** the Lord's Prayer together.



**Encourage** parents and family members to go to [www.osvcurriculum.com](http://www.osvcurriculum.com) for more ideas and suggestions.

# We Belong

## Before the Celebration

- Choose a gathering space that will be conducive to prayer and to accommodate the size of the group; the church, a chapel, or a gathering place in the parish hall would each be appropriate. You will want the group to be able to see, hear, and move easily during the ritual.
- Prepare the group for the ritual action of the Renewal of Baptismal Promises and for the reflection on the Scriptures.
- Select a good reader to proclaim the reading.
- Select four people for the entrance procession to carry the Bible, the candle, the bowl of water, and the chrism. Show them where and how to place them in the sanctuary or on the prayer table.
- If not in a church or chapel, place chairs in semicircular rows around the prayer space. Leave enough space for people to move in and out of the rows. If possible, have tables and chairs set up in another space for adult discussion after the celebration.

## Materials

- A large, clear bowl with water, or if the celebration is in the church, use the baptismal font or pool
- A large candle or the Paschal candle
- A prayer table for the candle, oil of chrism, a baptismal candle, a Bible, and a stand
- *Songs of Celebration* CD
- Copies of the celebration for the assembly from [www.osvcurriculum.com](http://www.osvcurriculum.com)

## Gathering Rite

**Welcome** the gathered assembly.

**Rehearse** the opening song, and go over the ritual action of the Renewal of Baptismal Promises.

**Invite** the assembly to stand for the procession.

## Opening Song

"Yes Lord, I Believe," *Songs of Celebration* CD, track 7.

## Procession

The persons carrying the bowl with water, candle, and Bible process in while the assembly sings.

**Leader:** *Let us begin with the Sign of the Cross.*

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

**Leader:** *May the peace of the Lord be with you.*

**All:** *And with your spirit.*

## Opening Prayer

**Leader:** *Heavenly Father, at Baptism, we were joined to your Son, Jesus Christ, and welcomed into the family of the Church. Hear our prayer as we remember our Baptism. We ask this through your Son, Jesus, who lives and reigns forever.*

**All:** *Amen.*

## Celebration of the Word

**Leader:** *A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.*

**All:** *Glory to you, O Lord.*

*Read John 15:1-7.*

**Leader:** *The Gospel of the Lord.*

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

*Sit silently.*



## Reflection

**Invite** the assembly to reflect on the Scriptures; use the following question:

- What does the image of the vine and branches suggest to you about your relationship with Jesus?

**Ask** the assembly to share their responses with one or two people. Be sure to include children in the sharing.

## Renewal of Baptismal Promises

**Leader:** Let us stand and renew our baptismal promises.

**Leader:** Do you reject sin, so as to live in the freedom of God's children?

**All:** I do.

**Leader:** Do you reject the glamour of evil and refuse to be mastered by sin?

**All:** I do.

**Leader:** Do you reject Satan, father of sin and prince of darkness?

**All:** I do.

**Leader:** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord?

**All:** I do.

**Leader:** Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the Communion of Saints, the Resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

**All:** I do.

Based on Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, 581

## The Lord's Prayer

**Leader:** At the Savior's command, and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:  
Say the Lord's Prayer together.

## Closing Prayer

**Leader:** May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

**All:** Amen.

**Leader:** Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

**Sing** the opening song together.

Children go to their group session and adults go to the appointed space for reflection.

- There is a liturgical catechetical session for adults on p. 54.
- There is a parent/adult catechetical session on pp. 55–56.
- There is an intergenerational catechetical session on pp. 57–58.



# We Belong

## Goals

- To reflect on the celebration
- To review and discuss the effects of Baptism

## Materials

- Poster board, chart paper, or overhead projector
- Markers
- *Songs of Celebration* CD
- Bible

## Reflection (20 minutes)

**Invite** the adults to gather in groups of five or six.

**Begin** by recalling the ritual moments of the celebration. Lead a guided meditation using the following prompts. Pause after each prompt.

- Play a few verses of the opening song, "Yes, Lord, I Believe," *Songs of Celebration* CD, track 7.
- Ask: "What was it like to renew your baptismal promises?"
- Call to mind the procession to the water and the signing of one another.
- Read a few verses of the Gospel.
- Ask participants to recall their discussion of the Gospel.
- Recall the Lord's Prayer and Dismissal.

## Small Group Sharing

**Pause** for a few minutes of silence. Then invite the participants to share their feelings about the celebration in their small group. Encourage them to stay with their feelings. After 10 to 15 minutes, invite sharing with the large group.

## Large Group Sharing

**Gather** the responses of the small groups on poster board, chart paper, or an overhead projector. Ask for feelings and thoughts about the celebration as a whole, and also for specific parts of the celebration that were meaningful to members of the group.

## Naming (30 minutes)

**Ask** the participants to name what they learned from the celebration about God, Jesus, the Church, Baptism, or their own Christian life.

**Take** each category separately and list responses on poster board, chart paper, or an overhead projector. When the lists are completed, use them to summarize the theology and meaning of Renewal of Baptismal Promises.

**Affirm**, add, or enlarge upon the following points:

- Baptism is a sacrament of belonging.
- Baptism is a sacrament of faith and needs a community of believers.
- Baptism makes us members of the Church.
- In Baptism, all sin is forgiven.
- In Baptism, we are made a "new creature."
- In Baptism, we become adopted children of God and temples of the Holy Spirit.

## Reflection and Small Group Sharing (20 minutes)

**Ask** "What will you do this week to nurture your bond with the Holy Spirit?"

**Direct** participants to reflect in silence for a few minutes, and then share their responses with their group.

## Closing Blessing (5 minutes)

**Gather** and begin with the Sign of the Cross.

**Leader:** *God, our Father, we praise and thank you for choosing us to be your children.*

**All:** *Amen.*

**Leader:** *Jesus our Savior, we praise and thank you for showing us how to live and love.*

**All:** *Amen.*

**Leader:** *Holy Spirit, giver of God's gifts, we praise and thank you for guiding us on our way.*

**All:** *Amen.*

# We Belong

## Goals

- To welcome participants in a hospitable environment
- To discuss how one "belongs" to the Church
- To help participants come to a deeper understanding of the Sacraments of Initiation

## Environment

- Clearly identify the meeting place, posting clear directions if necessary
- Arrange tables and chairs arranged for small groups
- Set up a prayer space with a large candle, a Bible on a stand, a clear bowl filled with water, and a branch or other instrument for sprinkling

## Materials

- Beverages and light refreshments
- Copies of *Call to Celebrate: Eucharist Family Guide*
- Songs of Celebration* CD
- Copies of **Eucharist Parent/Adult Catechesis Handouts 1:1 and 1:2** ([www.osvcurriculum.com](http://www.osvcurriculum.com))
- Board or chart paper

## Welcome and Opening Prayer (15 minutes)

**Begin** the session with welcoming words and introduce yourself. Briefly review the goals and agenda for the gathering.

✱ **If this session was preceded by a large group ritual and reflection, go to We Belong. If not, continue with the prayer.**

**Gather** the group around the prayer setting, if possible; if not, have the group pause for a reflective moment.

**Introduce** the prayer with the Sign of the Cross.

**Sing** "Yes Lord, I Believe!" *Songs of Celebration* CD, track 7.

**Pray** these or similar words:

*God, you are the source of life. You have made all things. We live with the breath of your life in us. We give you praise and thanks for these gifts. We belong to you. We are your children and we are never alone because you are present to us in so many ways, especially in the Church. Open our hearts that we may bring your life to those around us. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus. Amen.*

**Read** John 15:1-17.

**Invite** the assembly to reflect on the Gospel using the following question:

- What does the image of the vine and branches suggest to you about your relationship with Jesus?

**Ask** the participants to share their responses with one or two people.

**Invite** participants to come forward to sign themselves with the holy water as a sign of their belonging to God and the Church.

## We Belong (30 minutes)

**Write** the word "belonging" on the board or on chart paper. Ask the group to give you any word or image that *belonging* brings up for them. Jot down the responses and point out that real belonging involves investment in relationships and causes.

**Distribute** *Eucharist Parent/Adult Catechesis Handout 1:1* and ask participants to complete it. Explain that it will help them see from their own experiences how people come to belong.

**Organize** the large group into smaller groups of 5 to 6 people. Ask participants to share their stories of initiation in the small groups.

**Direct** them to listen for any common characteristics of what happens to people in the process of coming to belong to a group.

**Invite** participants to share in small groups. Develop a list of characteristics common to everyone's sharing that tells something about how people come to belong. At the end of the sharing, ask volunteers from the small groups to share the lists.



**Use** ideas from the list and give further input on what it means to belong to the Church. Emphasize that:

- Belonging is a process.
- Usually we are invited in (evangelization) or are really attracted by what we see (Christian witness).
- We make choices about our involvement.
- There are always rituals connected to the process of belonging (sacraments).
- As we become more involved in the group, we change (conversion).
- If it is really important to us, we tell others about it; we invite them in.

**Allow** some quiet time and ask participants to think about all the things they have just discussed and listened to, and to ask themselves:

- On a scale of 1–10 (10 being the highest), where would you rank yourself as belonging to the Church? Where would you rank yourself as belonging to God?

**Break** for refreshments and conversation.

### What Are the Sacraments of Initiation? (30 minutes)

**Use** some of the comments from the previous session to move into this segment.

**Point out** that initiation, or coming to belong, is always a process, and it usually involves symbols, rites, and rituals. It is that way with the Church, too. The Church has three Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

**Distribute Eucharist Parent/Adult Catechesis Handout 1:2** and go through it in a conversational style, making comments and explaining as questions arise. You may use the questions as a small group resource for sharing.

**Allow** time for questions, comments, and insights.

**Summarize** by saying these or similar words:

*Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist are the Sacraments of Initiation. These sacraments celebrate our belonging to Jesus Christ and being incorporated into his Body, the Church. Most of us go through a process of understanding what this really means for us. It is important to keep in mind that when we celebrate sacraments without being in relationship with and participating in the community of faith, we miss out on a lot. It is also important to keep in mind that initiation is only a beginning. It is not a graduation.*

### Parent Moment (10 minutes)

**Highlight** the three Faith at Home features in the *Child's Book* and show how they will help the parents and family members to participate in the children's preparation.

**Emphasize** the importance of doing the activities on the Faith at Home page, especially the ritual action.

### Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

**Gather** the participants in a circle around the prayer space. Pray these or similar words:

*God, who calls us to yourself, who longs for us to belong to you, we ask for your blessing as we continue our faith journey. May we always be alert to your presence in the sacred signs of our lives and the celebrations of the Church. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.*

*We close by reminding ourselves of our Baptism and our common kinship in God's family. In all that we do, may we reflect the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (Sprinkle with water.) Amen.*

**Thank** everyone for their time and participation.



**Encourage** parents and family members to go to [www.osvcurriculum.com](http://www.osvcurriculum.com) for more ideas and suggestions.

## Restored Order Session 1—Intergenerational Catechesis

# We Belong

### Objectives

- To guide families to experience a celebration of the word, including Renewal of Baptismal Promises
- To explore the meaning of the ritual action in family groups
- To help family members increase their understanding of the Sacraments of Initiation
- To help family members express that they are followers of Christ

### Materials

- Copies of the celebration for the assembly ([www.osvcurriculum.com](http://www.osvcurriculum.com))
- *Songs of Celebration* CD
- Prayer table
- Bible
- Candle and matches
- Bowl filled with water
- Chart or poster paper
- Markers
- Pencils
- *Child's Book*

### Welcome and Celebration (10–15 minutes)

**Welcome** the families in the gathering space.

**Distribute** copies of the celebration.

**Select** a family to be in the procession. Have them choose a family member to carry the Bible in procession.

- When families are assembled, walk forward slowly. Follow the child carrying the Bible.
- During the procession, lead families in singing “Yes Lord, I Believe,” from the *Songs of Celebration* CD, track 7.
- Place the Bible on the prayer table and have family members return to their seats.
- Light the prayer candle.
- Begin prayer with the Sign of the Cross and invite the group to follow the order of the prayer.
- If the group is too large to gather around the water and candle, have families remain seated.
- For the proclamation of the Gospel, you may use a Bible or the adapted reading in the *Child's Book* on pp. 6–7.
- Conclude with the opening song from the *Songs of Celebration* CD, track 7.

### New Life individual family unit experience (10 minutes)

**Guide** family members to reflect on the celebration by asking the following questions:

- What did you see? What did you hear? What did you do?

**Ask** volunteers to share their responses.

**Allow** time for children and family members to complete the activity on p. 4 of the *Child's Book*.

### The Body of Christ whole-group learning experience (5 minutes)

**Select** members of several families to share stories or details they know about their own Baptisms.

**Direct** attention to the bowl of water and the candle on the prayer table. Ask participants how these symbols are related to Baptism.

**Explain** the Signs of Faith: Water and Paschal Candle by summarizing the text on pp. 4–5 of the *Child's Book*.

**Ask** for a volunteer to read aloud The Body of Christ section in the *Child's Book*.

### We Belong to God family cluster sharing experience (10 minutes)

**Organize** the large group into small clusters and invite them to reflect on the following question:

- What does Jesus tell us about belonging to God?

**Ask** volunteers to share their responses.

**Ask** each family cluster to select a leader to read aloud the first paragraph on p. 6 of the *Child's Book*.

### Scripture whole-group learning experience (10 minutes)

**Read** aloud the Scripture story on pp. 6–7 of the *Child's Book*.

**Invite** the large group to reflect on the following:

- What was Jesus telling his friends in this story?
- Ask volunteers to share their responses.

**Allow** silent time for individuals to reflect on how Jesus is their friend. At the end of the reflection, have family members share their responses with one another.

**Direct** the families to help children complete the Share activity on p. 7 of the *Child's Book*.

**Emphasize** that Jesus wants us to know we belong to him, and he wants us to love one another.

### The Sacraments of Initiation family cluster sharing experience (15 minutes)

**Organize** the large group into the same family cluster groups as earlier. Be sure each group has selected a leader. Provide one sheet of poster paper for each family cluster and invite them to reflect on the question: Which sacraments are signs of belonging?

**Ask** each group leader to write down his or her group's responses on the poster paper.

**Ask** each group leader to select a member of his or her group to read aloud the first paragraph on p. 8 of the *Child's Book*.

**Guide** family cluster groups to look at the sacraments that they have listed on their chart paper, and have the leaders circle the Sacraments of Initiation.

**Explain** that Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist are the Sacraments of Initiation. These sacraments make us full members of the Church. These sacraments are signs that we belong to God.

### Baptism individual family unit experience (5 minutes)

**Point out** the word "Baptism" in the *Child's Book*.

- Invite family members to group together and have the adults share memories of their Baptisms or that of their child or children.

- Select a child to read aloud about Baptism on p. 8 of the *Child's Book*.

### Confirmation and Eucharist whole-group learning experience (10 minutes)

**Point out** the word "Confirmation" in the *Child's Book*:

- Explain to the large group that the Sacrament of Confirmation strengthens baptized persons with the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- Read the prayers on p. 9 of the *Child's Book*.
- Ask the families which Person of the Trinity we receive in a special way during Confirmation.
- Select a volunteer to read Signs of Faith: The Trinity.

**Point out** the word "Eucharist" in the *Child's Book*:

- Select a family member to read aloud from the book about Eucharist.

**Clarify** that Eucharist is a name used for the whole action of the Mass and that Holy Communion is the receiving of the Body and Blood of Jesus during the Eucharist.

### Children of Light individual family unit experience (5 minutes)

**Guide** families in sharing how they live as followers of Christ using the activity on p. 10 of the *Child's Book*. At the end of the reflection, ask volunteers to share their family's responses.

### Closing Blessing (5 minutes)

**Invite** each family to form a family circle.

**Begin** with the Sign of the Cross.

**Pray** the prayer on p. 10 of the *Child's Book*.

**Conclude** by leading families in singing *Songs of Celebration* CD, track 7, "Yes Lord, I Believe."

### Faith at Home

**Direct** families' attention to the Faith at Home page and encourage them to the activities at home.



# Gifts of the Holy Spirit

## Before the Celebration

- Choose a gathering space that will be conducive to prayer and that will accommodate the size of the group; the church, a chapel, or a gathering place in the parish hall would each be appropriate. You will want the group to be able to see, hear, and move easily during the ritual.
- Prepare the group for the ritual action of the Blessing and for the reflection on the sacred Scriptures.
- Select a good reader to proclaim the reading.
- Select four people for the entrance procession: to carry the Bible, the candle, the bowl of water, and the sacred chrism. Show them where and how to place them in the sanctuary or on the prayer table.
- If not in a church or chapel, place chairs in semicircular rows around the prayer space. Leave enough space for people to move in and out of the rows. If possible, have tables and chairs set up in another space for adult discussion after the celebration.

## Materials

- A large, clear bowl with water, or if the celebration is in the church, use the baptismal font or pool
- A branch or aspergillum for sprinkling
- A large candle or the Paschal candle
- A prayer table for the candle, sacred chrism, a baptismal candle, a Bible, and a stand
- *Songs of Celebration* CD
- Copies of the celebration for the assembly ([www.osvcurriculum.com](http://www.osvcurriculum.com))

## Gathering Rite

**Welcome** the gathered assembly.

**Rehearse** the opening song with gestures, and go over the ritual action of the Blessing.

**Invite** the assembly to stand for the procession.

## Opening Song

"We Are Called," *Songs of Celebration* CD, track 1.

## Procession

The persons carrying the bowl with water, a candle, and Bible process in while the assembly sings.

**Leader:** *Let us pray.*

*Make the Sign of the Cross together.*

## Opening Prayer

**Leader:** *God, our Father, we belong to you. We are your children. Open our hearts to the gift of the Holy Spirit. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

**All:** *Amen.*

## Celebration of the Word

**Leader:** *Jesus is the Light of the World. A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.*

**All:** *Glory to you, O Lord. Read John 14:15–26.*

**Leader:** *The Gospel of the Lord.*

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

## Reflection

**Invite** the assembly to reflect on the Gospel. Use the following question:

- When do you feel the presence of the Holy Spirit's help?

**Ask** the assembly to share their responses with one or two people. Be sure to include children in the sharing.

## Blessing

**Invite** the Confirmation candidates forward with their family members. Invite the family members to extend their hands over the children as you do.

**Leader:** *In Baptism, you were given the gift of the Holy Spirit. By water and the Holy Spirit, you received the gifts of faith and new life. Let us remember that the Holy Spirit is with us always.*

*Extend your hands over the head of each child and pray:*

**Leader:** *[Name], remember that the Holy Spirit is with you always.*

**Child:** Amen.

## Closing Prayer

**Leader:** *Loving Father, we thank you for the gift of your Spirit. Send us forth to bring your love to others. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

**All:** Amen.

Children go to their group session and adults go to the appointed space for reflection.

- There is a liturgical catechetical session for adults on p. 61.
- There is a parent/adult catechetical session on pp. 62–63.
- There is an intergenerational catechetical session on pp. 64–65.



# Gifts of the Holy Spirit

## Goals

- To reflect on the celebration
- To explore the meaning of Blessing and Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- To review the ritual action of Extension of Hands in the Confirmation Rite

## Materials

- Poster board, chart paper, or overhead projector
- Markers
- *Songs of Celebration* CD

## Reflection (20 minutes)

**Invite** the adults to gather in groups of five or six.

**Begin** by recalling the ritual moments of the celebration. Lead a guided meditation using the following prompts. Pause after each prompt.

- Play a few verses of the opening song “We Are Called,” *Songs of Celebration*, track 1.
- Read some verses of the Gospel.
- Ask participants to recall their discussion of the Gospel.
- Call to mind the ritual of blessing the candidates.
- Ask: “What was it like for you to observe the candidates being blessed?”

## Small Group Sharing

**Pause** for a few minutes of silence. Then invite the participants to share their feelings about the celebration in their small group. After 10 to 15 minutes, invite sharing with the large group.

## Large Group Sharing

**Gather** the responses of the small groups on a poster board, chart paper, or an overhead projector. Ask for feelings and thoughts about the celebration as a whole, and also for comments on specific parts of the celebration that were especially meaningful to members of the group.

## Naming (30 minutes)

**Ask** the participants to name what they learned from the celebration about Blessing, the Holy Spirit, the Church, and their own Christian life.

**Take** each category separately and list responses on a poster board, chart paper, or an overhead projector. When the lists are completed, use them to summarize the theology and meaning of Blessings, Extension of Hands, and Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

**Affirm**, add, or enlarge upon the following points:

- Blessings call down God’s favor on those being blessed. We can bless one another.
- One of the signs the Church uses to call upon the power of the Holy Spirit is the extending of hands.
- During the Sacrament of Confirmation, the bishop and the priests who are with him extend their hands over the candidates and pray that the Holy Spirit will give them the gifts of wisdom, understanding, right judgment, courage, knowledge, reverence, and wonder and awe.
- The Holy Spirit is given to us at Baptism to be our helper and advocate.
- Confirmation increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us. The gifts are given for the sake of building up the Church.

## Reflection and Small Group Sharing (20 minutes)

**Ask** “Which of the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit will you pray for this week? Why?”

**Direct** participants to reflect in silence for a few minutes and then to share their responses with their group.

## Closing Blessing (5 minutes)

**Gather** and begin with the Sign of the Cross.

**Instruct** participants to face a partner and extend hands over them in blessing, saying:

*May the Gifts of the Holy Spirit be active and effective in your life this week.*