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## Whole Community Ritual 2

# Believe with the 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 and the reflection on the Scriptures.
- Select a good reader to proclaim the reading.
- Select four readers for the Prayer of the Faithful.
- Select two people to carry the Bible and the candle in the entrance procession.
- 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
- Enough small candles or tapers for each candidate
- CD player or musician accompanist
- *Songs of Celebration: Confirmation CD*
- If the celebration is not in the church, a prayer table for the candle, holy water, Bible, and stand

### Celebration

When the assembly is gathered, welcome them. Rehearse the opening song. Invite them to stand for the procession.

### Procession

The presider and people carrying the candle and Bible process in while the assembly sings.

### Receiving a Candle

The candidates come forward individually with sponsors/mentors or family members. The remainder of the assembly remains in place. The sponsor/mentor or family member places his or her right hand on the right shoulder of the candidate, while the presider lights a candle and presents it to the candidate. If there are a large number of candidates, one or two catechists may present the candles. Candidates and sponsors/mentors or family members form a semi-circle in the prayer space until all have received their candles, and the presider sends them back to their places.

### Closing Prayer

After the closing prayer, candidates go to their group session and adults go to the appointed space for liturgical catechesis (p. 50) or a parent/adult session (pp. 51–52), or all go to the intergenerational session (pp. 53–54).



## Gathering Rite

### Procession with the Word

*Sing the refrain together.*

*We believe, we believe, we believe.*

"We Believe," lyrics © 1993, by Bernadette Farrell.  
Published by OCP Publications

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

*Pray the Sign of the Cross together.*

**Leader:** *Lord, our God, we gather together as a people who believe in you and your promises. Open our hearts to know you more fully and believe in you more fully. Guide us to seek and find you as you continue to reveal yourself to us through your Holy Spirit. We give you praise and thanks for the gift of our faith and the presence of the Holy Spirit in us.*

**All:** *Amen.*

### Celebration of the Word

**Leader:** *A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.*

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

*Read Matthew 17:14–21.*

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

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

### Reflection

**Invite** the assembly to reflect on the following questions:

- What does the Gospel tell us about the power of faith? What image of nature describes your faith today?

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

### Receiving a Candle

*Come forward as directed.*

**Leader:** *Heavenly Father, at Baptism, we entered into the faith of the Church. We received the light of Christ. Hear our prayer as we remember our Baptism and seek to deepen our faith. We ask this through your Son, Jesus who lives and reigns forever.*

**All:** *Amen.*

**Leader:** *[Name], receive the light of Christ, walk always as a child of the light, and keep the flame of faith burning and alive in your heart.*

**Respond:** *I will.*

**Leader:** *(to all candidates) May you go forth as children of the light.*

*Candidates extinguish the candles and return to the assembly.*

### Prayer of the Faithful

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

*The response after each is Hear us, O Lord.*

**Reader 1:** *That we will come to a deeper appreciation of the faith of our Baptism, we pray to the Lord.*

**Reader 2:** *That God will bless us with open eyes and hearts that will come to believe in him more fully, we pray to the Lord.*

**Reader 3:** *That we will find in this community of faith support and strength to live as children of the light, we pray to the Lord.*

**Reader 4:** *That in faith we will become more responsive to the needs of others, we pray to the Lord.*

**Leader:** *Let us pray as Jesus has taught us: Pray the Lord's Prayer.*

### Closing Prayer

**Leader:** *God, our Loving Father, we stand before you in faith. Send your Holy Spirit that we may act as witnesses of that faith to those around us. We ask this through Christ our Lord.*

**All:** *Amen.*

*Sing again the opening song.*



## Liturgical Catechesis 2—Adult Session

# Believe with the Spirit

### Goals

- To reflect on the celebration
- To review and discuss the meaning of faith

### Materials

- Poster board, newsprint, or overhead projector
- Markers
- *Songs of Celebration: Confirmation CD*
- Bible

### Reflection (20 minutes)

**Invite** participants to gather in groups of five or six in the designated space.

**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 Believe,” *Songs of Celebration: Confirmation CD*, track 2.
- Read a few verses of the Gospel.
- Ask participants to recall their discussion of the Gospel.
- Call to mind the candidates coming forth with their sponsor/mentor or family member.
- Ask “What was it like to see the candle being handed over to the candidates and to hear the words: ‘Receive the light of Christ?’”
- Was there an intercession that spoke to you?
- Recall the Lord’s Prayer and dismissal.

### Small Group Sharing

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

### Large Group Sharing

**Gather** the responses of the small groups on poster board, newsprint, 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 Jesus, the Church, faith, or their own Christian life.

**Take** each category separately and list their responses on poster board, newsprint, or an overhead projector. When the lists are completed, use them to summarize the theology of Baptism.

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

- Faith is our free response to God’s great gift of revelation.
- Revelation is God’s self-communication, especially in the person and message of Jesus Christ, his own Son.
- Faith is a way of seeing. By faith we grow to see the world through God’s eyes.
- Faith has two sides: God’s call and our response.
- Membership in the Church strengthens faith.

### Reflection and Small Group Sharing (20 minutes)

**Ask** “How does faith help you live in today’s world? Would your life be different without faith?”

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

### Closing Blessing

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

**Leader:** *God, our Father, we praise and thank you for sending Jesus to be the Light of the World.*

**All:** *Amen.*

**Leader:** *Jesus our Savior, we praise and thank you for showing us how to live in the light of your presence and message.*

**All:** *Amen.*

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

**All:** *Amen.*

**Sing** again the opening song from the celebration.

# Believe with the Spirit

## Goals

- To welcome participants in a hospitable environment
- To help participants come to a deeper understanding of what faith is, and how they can grow in their faith

These sessions may also be used as preparation for baptized adults who are preparing for Confirmation.

## Environment

- Clearly identify the meeting place, posting directions if necessary.
- Tables and chairs arranged for small groups
- A prayer setting with large candle, Bible on a stand, clear bowl filled with holy water
- Wrap **Parent/Adult Catechesis Handout 2:2** around a candle and place it in a basket in the prayer space.

## Materials

- Beverages and light refreshments
- Name tags
- *Songs of Celebration: Confirmation CD*
- Copies of **Parent/Adult Catechesis Handouts 2:1 and 2:2**
- White taper candle or small white pillar candle, one per household
- Pencils or pens
- Board, chart paper, or newsprint
- Markers
- Tape

## Welcome and Opening Prayer (10 minutes)

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

**Gather** the groups around the prayer setting.

Invite a volunteer to light the candle on the prayer table.

As the candle is lit, say:

*We welcome the flame of faith. Bless us, O Lord, with the fire of your love.*

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

**Sing** or listen to “We Believe,” *Songs of Celebration: Confirmation CD*, track 2.

**Pray** in these or similar words:

*Lord God, we gather as a people of faith who believe in you and your promises. Open our hearts that we may believe in you more fully. Guide us as we seek you, and live out the faith we have been given. Open our eyes and ears to see and hear how you reveal yourself to us through your Holy Spirit. We give you praise and thanks for the gift of our faith and the presence of the Holy Spirit in us. Amen.*

**Read** Matthew 17:14–21.

Invite the group to reflect on the Scripture. Pose the following question:

- How big is your faith?

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

**Invite** participants to join in prayers for increased faith. The response is *Hear us, O Lord*.

*That we will come to a deeper appreciation of the faith of our Baptism, we pray to the Lord.*

*That God will bless us with open eyes and hearts that we will come to believe in him more fully, we pray to the Lord.*

*That we will find in this community of faith support and strength to live as children of the light, we pray to the Lord.*

*That in faith we will become more responsive to the needs of others, we pray to the Lord.*

*We pause now to pray for those who have touched our lives with the flame of faith (pause for silent prayer), we pray to the Lord.*

*That we may pass on the gift of faith to those whom you have entrusted to our care, we pray to the Lord.*

**Pray:**

*God, our Father, in faith we stand before you. Send your Holy Spirit that we may act as witnesses of that faith to those around us. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## Receiving the Gift of Faith (40 minutes)

**Organize** the large group into five smaller groups.

**Distribute** a piece of newsprint and a marker to each group.

**Focus** the group on “faith” through the following process. You will build on what the group surfaces in this activity for a presentation on Receiving the Gift of Faith.

**Assign** each group one of the following tasks, using the chart paper or newsprint to record their work. Label the chart paper or newsprints in advance with the words in parentheses below:

- Define “faith.” (Faith)
- Describe “faith in action.” (Faith in Action)
- Brainstorm images of faith from Scripture and our church. How do these images help us understand what faith is? (Images for Faith)
- List examples or stories from Scripture and your own life experience that help us learn what faith is. (Stories of Faith)
- Surface your group’s thoughts on the difference faith makes in your life. Create two columns on your newsprint labeled “life with faith,” “life without faith.” (What difference does faith make?)

After 10 to 15 minutes of work, have the groups tape their newsprints up on the walls around the room.

**Invite** participants to circle around the room, reading what is on each of the newsprints. When participants have returned to their seats, facilitate comments, questions, and additions to the newsprints.

**Do** a presentation about the mystery of faith. Use what the participants have surfaced as a framework for discussing the content from the *Candidate Book*, YA pp. 16–19 or OA pp. 18–21. Choose several of the Scripture passages listed on YA p. 19 or OA p. 21 to highlight what Scripture tells us about faith. Highlight from the newsprint or incorporate additional points such as:

- We receive the Light of Christ at Baptism.
- At Baptism, parents and godparents are urged to keep the flame of faith alive in the child’s life.
- Light is an image the Church uses to describe the mystery of faith.
- Faith is our free response to God’s great gift of revelation.
- Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we hear and

see with the eyes of faith.

- Jesus tells us that those who have faith can do the things he did.

**Break** for refreshments and conversation.

## Responding to the Gift of Faith (40 minutes)

**Distribute** Parent/Adult Catechesis Handout 2:1 and invite participants to complete it individually. Allow 10 minutes.

Invite participants to rejoin their small groups. Distribute a blank newsprint sheet to each group. First, the participants share the ideas they have surfaced on the handout. Then, using the newsprint, each small group develops two Top Ten Lists—one for how to grow in *personal faith*, and one for how to grow in our *communal faith*. Emphasize that the lists should be as practical and “doable” as possible.

**Record** the responses of the groups for each list on newsprint in front of the large group.

**Invite** the participants to share their ideas on how they can keep the flame of faith alive in their own households.

## Closing Prayer

**Gather** the participants in a circle around the prayer space and pray:

*Come Holy Spirit,  
Open my eyes that I may see the events of my life  
through the eyes of faith.  
Open my ears that I may hear the word of God  
spoken to me;  
Open my heart that I may grow more in love with  
God who has loved me first.  
Open my hands and move my feet to serve others.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ.  
Amen.*

**Invite** participants from each household to come forward for a blessing. Distribute Parent/Adult Catechesis Handout 2:2 to each household as a scroll wrapped around a candle. Give a brief demonstration on how families can create a simple prayer space in their homes; use the prayer space you have provided as an example.

**Pray:**

*Go forth in love and peace, and may the Holy Spirit be your guide as you keep the flame of faith alive in your home. Amen.*

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



## Intergenerational Catechesis 2

# Believing with the Spirit

On these pages, family unit includes the sponsor/mentor, if appropriate.

### Objectives

- To gather candidates, family members, and sponsors/mentors (when possible) for a celebration of the word, including receiving a candle
- To explore the imagery of light, the concepts of personal and communal faith, faith and the Holy Spirit, and Confirmation as the completion of Baptism
- To reflect together on people, living or deceased, who stand as models in the Christian life

### Materials

- Copies of the celebration for the assembly (p. 49 in this book)
- *Songs of Celebration: Confirmation CD*
- *Candidate Book*
- Activity Master 2 (from YA *Catechist Edition*, p. CE2)
- Prayer table
- Bible
- Candle and matches
- Bowl filled with holy water
- Newsprint, board, or chart paper
- Plain paper
- Markers
- Pencils
- Information on Maryknoll Office of Global Concerns including a summary of the mission of Maryknoll (optional)\*

*Familiarize yourself with the celebration; invite four candidates to be prepared to read the Prayer of the Faithful. If possible, invite a cantor to lead the opening and closing songs, using the song suggested in the celebration, or choose a song from the optional music selections.*

### Welcome and Celebration (15 minutes)

**Welcome** the families in the gathering space and distribute copies of the celebration.

**Sing** or play “We Believe” from the *Songs of Celebration: Confirmation CD*, track 2 as people are gathering.

Invite the group to stand for the opening song, light the candle, and open the Bible.

Begin prayer with the Sign of the Cross and invite the group to follow the order of the prayer.

### Reflect on the Celebration individual family unit (10 minutes)

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

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

**Invite** family members to turn toward one another and share their responses.

**Ask** family members to do the Reflection activities in the *Candidate Book*, YA p. 16 or OA p. 18.

### Signs of Faith whole group (5 minutes)

**Summarize** the text on YA p. 16 or OA p. 18.

**Brainstorm** the list of the important parts of the story of faith.

### Enlightened by Christ and Faith and Light

family clusters (10 minutes)

**Organize** the large group into smaller groups of families.

**Invite** the groups to read, reflect, and discuss the **Talk About It** and **Think About It** features in the *Candidate Book* on YA p. 17 or the **Reflect** feature on OA p. 19.

**Summarize** the main text for the whole group, indicating the definition of faith and revelation.

**Invite** one family member in each cluster to read the last paragraph aloud in their group.

### Seeing and Believing mixed groups (15 minutes)

**Initiate** the discussion of the **Faith Focus** question by sharing an example of what faith has done in your life.

Organize the large group into mixed groups of three or four and have them brainstorm responses to the question.

List responses on the board, chart paper, or newsprint.

Invite a candidate to read John 9:35–39.

Divide the large group into appropriate age groups to discuss the question: “When have you recognized and responded to God’s call to faith?”



## Faith and Fear whole group (10 minutes)

**Guide** participants to reflect silently using the following questions:

- What happenings in your life have helped you believe in Jesus? What things might have made it more difficult to believe?

**Invite** a candidate to read Matthew 8:23–27.

**Read** the reflection questions following the reading to the group one at a time and invite volunteers to share their responses.

## Share the Word family clusters (10 minutes)

**Have** participants select two of the Scripture passages listed on YA p. 19 or OA p. 21. Tell them to read the passages and discuss what they tell them about faith, using the prompt: “These Scriptures helped me to see that faith and believing ...”

## Personal and Communal Faith whole group (10 minutes)

**Discuss** the following from the **Think About It** and **Talk About It** features on YA p. 20 or the **Discuss** on OA p. 22.

- How has the Church been a mother for your faith?
- Why do you think it might be difficult to believe alone, without others who shared your faith?
- How has belonging to a church helped in your faith journey?

**Summarize** the rest of the text.

## Completion of Baptism family clusters (5–7 minutes)

**Direct** attention to the **Talk About It** feature on YA p. 21 and ask the family groups to discuss it.

Distribute copies of Activity Master 2.

**Direct** the groups to silently read the directions and write their suggestions on the Activity Master.

**Invite** a member of each family group share their Nomination Form.

**Summarize** the text on YA p. 21 or OA p. 23.

**Ask** the candidates to read aloud as a group the prayer from the Rite of Confirmation.

## Symbol of the Holy Spirit whole group (5 minutes)

**Invite** a volunteer to read the text aloud and then invite volunteers to share their responses to the question.

\*Visit [www.osvcurriculum.com](http://www.osvcurriculum.com) and look under Resource Links for a link to Maryknoll Missionary information.

## Witness of Faith separate groups (15–20 minutes)

**Read** aloud the text on YA p. 22 or OA p. 24.

**Organize** the candidates into groups of six to ten and direct them to work as a group to prepare a skit or presentation on the life of Ita Ford.

**Organize** the rest of the group into groups of six to eight to discuss:

- Who stands for you as a vivid example of a person who has lived or is living their life as a witness to Christ’s love?

## Faith in Action whole group (5 minutes)

**Summarize** text on YA p. 23 or OA p. 24 and distribute information on Maryknoll, if you choose to use it.\*

## Respond in Faith individual family unit (10 minutes)

**Invite** each participant to create a map of their faith journey as described in Draw a Map on YA p. 23 or participate in the Faith Sharing as on OA p. 26.

## Journey Together whole group

**Direct** the attention of the group to the **Journey Together** pages (YA pp. 24–25 or OA pp. 27–28) and encourage them to work on the activities before the next session.

## Closing Blessing

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

**Pray** the closing prayer on YA p. 23 or OA p. 26 of the *Candidate Book*.

Conclude by leading the group in singing *Songs of Celebration: Confirmation* CD, track 2, “We Believe.”