

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION
A FOUR-PART CATECHETICAL VIDEO SERIES

CONFIRMATION LESSON 1:
THE CHURCH



HOSTED BY

MOST REVEREND DONALD W. WUERL, S.T.D.
ARCHBISHOP OF WASHINGTON

1. What is the Church?

2. What gift did Jesus leave behind?

3. What does the Spirit do for the Church?

4. Upon whom is the Church founded?

5. How did the apostles keep the Church alive?

6. How does the Church continue Jesus' teaching today?

7. How does the Church form community today?

8. How does the Church make people holy today?

1. What is the Church?

The Church, a spiritual reality, is described as God's People, God's Family. (NCD, 25, C, 5) It is the living body of Christ.

2. What gift did Jesus leave behind?

Jesus, the Son of God, lived among us. When he returned to the Father, he left behind the gift of his Holy Spirit.

3. What does the Spirit do for the Church?

The Spirit gives life to the Church, the Body of Christ (NCD, 8), and unites it as a family.

4. Upon whom is the Church founded?

The Church, which carries on the work of Jesus, is founded and structured under the leadership of the twelve apostles (NDC, 16, B). Peter is the head of the apostles.

5. How did the apostles keep the Church alive?

The apostles chose successors to themselves to keep the Church alive. Today the college of bishops does what the apostles did. Each bishop is a successor to the apostles.

6. How does the Church continue Jesus' teaching today?

Jesus taught us how to live. The Church, through the bishops, continues that work today.

7. How does the Church form community today?

Jesus gathered people into a community. The Church continues that work through caring for others and proclaiming the Gospel (NDC, 1).

8. How does the Church make people holy today?

Jesus came to make people holy. The Church continues that work today through the celebration of the sacraments (NDC, 35, A, B)

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CONFIRMATION LESSON 2:
BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION



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Main Points to Remember

Fill in your response to each question in the manner directed by your catechist.

Correct the response as necessary following review by the whole group as led by your catechist.

1. What can the separation of the Sacraments of Initiation allow young people to learn before undertaking Confirmation?
2. Why is Baptism the fundamental and primary sacrament?
3. Why is the symbol of water important to understanding Baptism?
4. What is Original Sin?

Main Points to Remember from the Video

At the conclusion of the video solicit from the students the main points they learned. This can be done by asking the whole group the series of review questions or by pre-printing the questions, having the students complete them individually or in small groups, and then offer their responses to the whole group. The students record the correct response information in their lesson packets in the space provided.

For this lesson the students are to answer the following questions:

1. What can the separation of the Sacraments of Initiation allow young people to learn before undertaking Confirmation?
In the Western Church the Sacraments of Initiation were separated in time. Most people today are baptized as infants and celebrate Confirmation when they are older. Before this time they can come to know and learn the faith (NDC, no 36, A, 1, 2).
2. Why is Baptism the fundamental and primary sacrament?
Baptism is the fundamental and primary sacrament by which we first meet Jesus and enter His Church.
3. Why is the symbol of water important to understanding Baptism?
The symbol of water used in baptism is a living sign that original sin is washed away and the new life of Christ enters us. We die to sin and live in grace (NDC, no 42, A, B, D).
4. What is Original Sin?
Our first parents chose to follow selfishness instead of God, a tendency and fault which we all inherit as Original Sin.

5. What are some of the other symbols used in Baptism?

The rite of baptism, celebrated by a priest or deacon, together with parents, godparents and other members of the faith community, includes the sign of the cross upon the child, the profession of faith, the pouring of water, the white robe, the candle, and the anointing with oil (NDC, no 36, A, 1).

6. Why is it important for us to receive the gifts of the Spirit in Confirmation?

We receive the gifts of the Spirit in Confirmation to complete our baptism, to complete our membership in the Church, and to help us build God's kingdom (NDC, no 36, A, 2).

7. What are the portions of the ritual and the symbols used in Confirmation?

The rite of Confirmation, celebrated by the bishop, together with a sponsor for each candidate, includes the renewal of baptismal promises, the laying on of hands, the anointing of the candidates with the sacred oil, chrism, and the exchange of peace.

5. What are some of the other symbols used in Baptism?

6. Why is it important for us to receive the **gifts of the Spirit** in Confirmation?

7. What are the portions of the ritual and the symbols used in Confirmation?

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CONFIRMATION LESSON 3:
EUCHARIST



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1. Why is the Eucharist called spiritual food?
2. How did the Eucharist come to be?
3. What did Jesus do with the bread and wine of the Passover?
4. Why did Jesus establish the priesthood?
5. Why is the Mass so important and so sacred?
6. What should be our attitude at Mass?
7. What are the two effects of the Eucharist?

1. Why is the Eucharist called spiritual food?
The Eucharist is the spiritual food that we receive that sustains the spiritual life of grace within us (NDC, no 36, A, 3).
2. How did the Eucharist come to be?
The Eucharist came to be when Jesus instituted it at the Last Supper as a memorial of his forthcoming death and resurrection.
3. What did Jesus do with the bread and wine of the Passover?
At the Supper Jesus took the bread and wine of the Passover Meal and made them into his body and blood.
4. Why did Jesus establish the priesthood?
Jesus established the priesthood in order to continue the gift of the Eucharist for all times.
5. Why is the Mass so important and so sacred?
The Mass is a sacred moment for us because it is the presence of Jesus himself in a sacramental way, present as spiritual food to live within us.
6. What should be our attitude at Mass?
We should go to Mass prepared to be a participant in the very action of Christ on the altar.
7. What are the two effects of the Eucharist?
Each of us goes to Mass so that we can draw closer to Christ and be better and holier. We also celebrate the Eucharist to become closer to the family, the community of the Church.

8. How should I approach the Eucharist?

We need to be well prepared to meet Jesus in the Eucharist, free of serious sin and in a reverent manner.

8. How should I approach the Eucharist?

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CONFIRMATION LESSON 4:
LIFE OF FAITH IN CHRIST



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1. Whose attitude must we strive to have as part of our preparation for Confirmation?

2. What was Jesus' attitude toward the Father? Towards others?

3. What do we need to know as we prepare for Confirmation?

4. Why is it important to develop our conscience?

5. Why are prayer and the sacraments important?

6. What will the gifts of the Spirit enable us to do with our lives?

1. Whose attitude must we strive to have as part of our preparation for Confirmation?

Part of our preparation for Confirmation is knowing how to live out our faith in Christ. We must have the same attitude toward God and others that Jesus had (NDC, 28, A, 1-4; 42).

2. What was Jesus' attitude toward the Father? Toward others?

Jesus called God "Father" and related to him and others in a loving way. We must call God "Our Father" and treat each other as brother and sister.

3. What do we need to know as we prepare for Confirmation?

We need to know what our faith is. We can gain knowledge of the faith by studying the Apostles' Creed and by reading The Catechism of the Catholic Church, the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults and The Teaching of Christ.

4. Why is it important to develop our conscience?

Living our faith also means to develop a well-formed conscience. Conscience is where God speaks to us and directs us to decide and act for good (NDC, 42, C).

5. Why are prayer and the sacraments important?

Prayer is both speaking to and listening to God. The celebration of the sacraments enables us to receive God's grace and the courage to live out our faith (NDC, 34; 35, A).

6. What will the gifts of the Spirit enable us to do with our lives?

The gifts of the Spirit we receive in Confirmation will strengthen us

Glossary of Terms

Note to catechists: The students will be memorizing terms from their text and the student lesson guides in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. This Glossary of Terms is to be used as a study guide and reference. These terms are bolded in the student lesson guides.

Baptism

The first of the seven sacraments. It frees us from original sin and personal sin. Baptism gives us new life in Christ and the Holy Spirit. We become members of the Church, the body of Christ. The rite of Baptism consists of immersing a person in water or pouring water on the head, while declaring that the person is baptized in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. (See # 977, 1213, 1275, 1278 in CCC)

Chrism

Perfumed oil, consecrated by the bishop, which is used for consecration in the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Orders. (See #1241, 1289, 1291, 1294 in CCC)

Church

The term, which means "assembly" refers to the whole Catholic community of believers throughout the world. The term can also be used in the sense of a diocese (the local Church) or a particular parish. The Church is one, holy, catholic, and apostolic. See pp. 112-121 in USCCA, #752, 811 in CCC)

Confirmation (*called Chrismation in the Eastern Churches*)

One of the sacraments of Initiation, along with Baptism and Eucharist, Confirmation completes the grace received in Baptism. It seals or confirms this grace through a special outpouring of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. These gifts equip us to actively participate in the worship and apostolic life of the Church. (See pg. 107 in USCCA, #1285 in CCC)

Conscience

The interior voice of a human being within whose heart the inner law of God is inscribed. Moral conscience moves a person at the appropriate moment to do good and to avoid evil. (See #1777-1778 in CCC)

Eucharist

The Eucharist is the sacrament in which we give thanks to God. During the celebration of the Mass, by the power of the Holy Spirit and the proclamation of Jesus' words by the priest, the bread and wine are changed into the Body and Blood of Christ, which is offered in an unbloody manner in sacrifice for us and in praise to the Father. The assembly participates actively by prayers, hymns, psalms, responses, and an inner self-offering along with Christ to the Father. All who are properly prepared can receive Holy Communion, by which Jesus gradually transforms the receivers into himself and which leads them to Gospel witness in the world. (See pp. 215-232 in USCCA)

Gifts of the Spirit

The permanent disposition making us docile to what the Holy Spirit prompts us to do. The list of the seven gifts is taken from Isaiah 11; 1-3: wisdom, understanding, knowledge, and counsel, reverence (piety), fortitude and wonder and awe in God's presence (fear of the Lord). (See #1830-1831 in CCC)

Grace

The gift, free and undeserved, that God has given to us. Because of grace, we share God's divine life and his friendship. Through grace, God gives us the help to conform our lives to his will and live out our vocation. (See #1996, 2000 in CCC)

Kingdom of God

God's rule announced in the Gospel; present in the person of Jesus, the Messiah, and remaining in our midst in the Eucharist. The Church is the seed and beginning of the Kingdom on earth which is proclaimed by Jesus Christ as a community of justice, peace, mercy and love. In the Lord's Prayer, we pray for the fulfillment of the Kingdom which is in eternity. (See # 541-554, 709, 763, 2816, 2819 in CCC; pp. 79-80 in USCCA)

Lectionary

The official liturgical book from which the reader (lector) proclaims the Scripture readings used in the Liturgy of the Word. (See # 1154 in CCC)

Magisterium

The teaching office of the pope and bishops in communion with him, guided by the Holy Spirit. Its task is to give authentic interpretation of the word of God, whether in Sacred Scripture or in Tradition. It ensures the Church's faithfulness to the teaching of the Apostles in matters of faith and morals. (See #85, 890, 2033 in CCC)

Original Sin

The sin by which the first human beings disobeyed the commandment of God, choosing to follow their own will rather than God's will. As a consequence they lost the grace for original holiness, and became subject to the law of death. Original sin affects every person born into the world since the personal sin of Adam and Eve. Christ is the "new Adam" who came to redeem us. (See #396-412 in CCC)

Penance

Interior penance: a conversion of heart toward God and away from sin, which implies the intention to change one's life because of hope in divine mercy. External acts of penance include fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. The observances of certain penitential practices are obliged by the fourth precept of the Church. (See #1431, 1434, 2043 in CCC)

Precepts of the Church

Positive Laws (sometimes called commandments) made by the Church authorities to guarantee for the faithful the indispensable minimum in prayer and moral effort, for the sake of their growth in love of God and neighbor. (See #2041 in CCC)

Reconciliation, Sacrament of

The sacramental celebration in which through God's mercy and forgiveness, the sinner is reconciled with God and also with the Church, Christ's Body, which is wounded by sin. (See #1422, 1442-5, 1468 in CCC and definition for Penance)

Rite

The diverse liturgical traditions in which one catholic and apostolic faith has come to be expressed and celebrated in various cultures and lands. It can also be the special form used in celebrating each sacrament. (See #1201-1206 in CCC)

Sacrament

An efficacious sign of grace instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church. By the work of the Holy Spirit, divine life is given to us through the seven sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Reconciliation or Penance, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders and Matrimony. (See # 774, 1131, 1210 in CCC)

Sin

It is a deliberate thought, word, deed or failure to act which is contrary to God's law. It offends God and our relationship with other persons. Sins are either mortal (serious and thus requiring the Sacrament of Reconciliation or venial (less serious). (See # 1456, 1849, 1853, 1854 in CCC)

Vocation

The calling or destiny one has in this life. The human person is created by God to love and serve him. This call to holiness is lived out as a member of the clergy, with a religious community or as a lay person. (See #873, 931, 933 in CCC)