

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION



Team Materials Session 4

Theme: The importance of community

- Candidates will examine the importance of a Catholic, Christian community and the ways that they are called to participate in the local and global community as disciples of Christ.
- The Candidates will explore image of community within the Scriptures and Church teachings.
- The Candidates will examine their interdependence as members of the Body of Christ.

Session 4 Schedule

6:30	Check In & Pizza in room
7:00	Program Begins – Welcome in Cafe-
7:05	Opening Prayer/Ice Breaker
7:15	Parish Scavenger Hunt
7:30	Are We Ever Alone
7:50	Human Knot
8:00	Scripture and Tradition
8:35	Crossword puzzle
8:50	Awareness Examen

Handouts

Parish Scavenger Hunt
Bulletins
Are We Ever Alone
CATHOLIC 8.5x11 poster
C-A-T-H-O-L-I-C Letter
sheets
Scripture and Tradition
assignments
Closing Prayer

1. Opening Prayer

**Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty,
my memory, my understanding, and my entire will.
All I have and call my own.
Whatever I have or hold, you have given to me.
I restore it all to you and surrender it wholly
to be governed under your will.
Give me only your love and grace
and I am rich enough and ask for nothing more.**

2. Icebreaker

Directions: Everyone comes up with two truths about themselves and one lie. The others have to guess what the lie is.

Example: The three things I could say about myself are, "I have been to Africa. I am allergic to horses. And I am one of 11 children." The people guess which of the three is not true. Then, when everyone has made their choice the person reveals the lie, "The lie is I am allergic to horses"

Materials

Bibles
Markers
Pens
Post-It pad

3. Activity - Parish Scavenger Hunt (10 min)

Materials: Parish Scavenger Hunt play sheet (11x17) - 3
Bulletins - 3

The goal of this activity is for the candidates to use the bulletin to:
see the number of activities that happen in our parish
see who the parish serves – womb to tomb
see who serves the parish – ordained and laity, staff and volunteers
see where they can get involved
be a resource to their fellow parishioners
think outside the box when referencing opportunities to be involved

Use these goals to process after the activity

Instructions:

Task: As a team, find out where parishioners can go – in the parish – to get help, find opportunities for service, information or formation. It's also a fun, competitive ice breaker. Give them 5 minutes to complete as many as possible.

How:

1. Use the bulletin and find the "best fit" for each scenario and write the response in "The Bulletin Suggests" column.
2. Create 2 teams; Assign 1 student per group to record answers

Some answers may not be so easily apparent and may fit more than 1 ministry/situation.

Transition into: Exploring Christian Community

4. Activity – Lesson: Are We Ever Alone? (20 min)

Materials: Are We Ever Alone Sheets (1 pack of 3 sheets)

In this activity, the candidates are asked to explore our interdependence. To see the ways in which we depend on others in all aspects of our lives – and how we are linked to each other even in areas where we believe ourselves to be free from the influence of others.

Instructions:

Create 3 groups

Brainstorm A – Activities you can do alone: Working as a team, brainstorm a list of activities that a person can do on their own – or activities that you believe you don't need anyone else's help or assistance to accomplish. TIME: 3 minutes!

Collect Part A - swap with another group's brainstorm

Distribute Brainstorm B – Now ask the groups to pick (1) one activity from the responses in Brainstorm A – and...

On sheet B - create a list of Other People who are involved in those activities you believe you can do alone. TIME: 3 minutes

Collect Brainstorm A and B and swap with another group's brainstorm. Distribute Brainstorm C.

On Brainstorm C sheet, make a list of all the people or companies who are connected to the activity they chose. TIME: 3 minutes

EG – if you chose "sleep", consider the following: who made the bed, who paid for it, who made the sheets, where did the bed, sheets, pajamas come from, who picked the cotton, who cut the lumber, etc?

When all are finished, bring the groups together. Post each Brainstorm C so all can see and brainstorm again with the entire group and ask the following:

- Are there other group or companies that have been overlooked in each of these activities? Add any additional ideas.

Application:

What does this activity teach us? – that we are interdependent.

What does this word INTERDEPENDENT mean and how does it apply to this activity?

"No man is an island". It is impossible for us to think go of our selves outside the sphere of influence of other people. We are intricately linked to each other in this global community.

This activity was a fun way to get us in touch with all the ways we depend on others. What is true in our "regular" life is also true in our faith lives. We need to depend on one another. We are connected in baptism through Jesus Christ. We live out this interdependence in the life of the Church – primarily through the sacraments.

Next – the group will spend some time exploring what it means to be community within our faith Tradition. The group will look at Scripture and some Church documents to help us do that.

5. Activity – Lesson: Scripture and Tradition

Materials: CATHOLIC 8.5x11 poster - 1

C-A-T-H-O-L-I-C Letter sheets – 1 pack

Scripture and Tradition assignments – 4 packs

Instructions:

1. Divide the team into groups of 4; Give each group an assignment.
2. Follow the assignment as written.
(Summary – read and discuss the scripture passage. Read, discuss and start the activity based on the selected Church teaching)
3. Each sub-group will work on a sheet of paper that has 2 letters appropriate to the assignment.
4. Give each of the groups 15-20 minutes and monitor their progress. Watch the time
5. When they are finished, ask each sub-group to present their findings to the whole-group. Post where everyone can see them.
6. The findings will show the letters to spell C-A-T-H-O-L-I-C.

From these findings, outline the following ideas about community. Use the CATHOLIC poster to illustrate what each letter in Catholic illustrates about our faith community:

C – We are *children of God*. We have an important role in building the kingdom of God.

A – We are called to *action* by our baptismal call.

T – We are called to *teach* the good news through our words and actions.

H – We are a *holy*, Roman and apostolic Church.

O – We are *obliged* to help one another.

L – We are called to *love* one another as Christ loved us.

I – We are an *interdependent* people. Our faith journey is for us to explore within ourselves and with our brothers and sisters in faith.

C – We are a diverse and universal *community*.

Let us remember that we are called to community and that we share in that community in a special way when we pray together.

As we continue on our spiritual journeys, we will find that the struggles, doubts, wisdom and religious practices and life experiences help us grow in faith.

As Catholics, we believe that if we rely only on our own, individual faith experiences with God then we are missing a big part of the puzzle.

The apostle Paul said in First Corinthians 12 that we need one another to know and understand God in our lives. And we need each other to play a part in the body of Christ. We live this out at Mass – in the Eucharist – and we live it out in the world.

Conclude: If it is true that we are the Body of Christ, and it is, then, God's presence in the world today depends very much upon us. We have to keep God present in the world in the same way Jesus did. We have to become as Teresa of Avila so simply put it, God's physical hands feet, mouthpiece and heart in this world.

6. Human Knot

Directions: Stand in a circle and have everyone grab someone else's hand who is not standing next to you. Try to 'unknot' the group so that you are standing in a circle holding the hand of the person to the left and right of you.

Say: *In real life most of what we experience involves people affecting each others' lives. We can do that in a positive helpful way, or a negative way. When we make decisions for ourselves we have to think about how those decisions affect others. When we communicate with each other, we have to share our own views and concerns, and also listen to the other person's views and concerns.*

7. Crossword Puzzle: Review

Down

1. This gift of the Holy Spirit is the ability to see from another person's "heart", to feel the feelings of others and to put these before our own. **Understanding**
2. There are ___ gifts of the Holy Spirit. **Seven**
- 6 & 13. Complete this Sentence taken from the Nicene Creed: For us men and for our ___(13) ___ he came down from heaven: by the power of the ___(6)_____ he was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man. **Salvation-13, Holy Spirit-6**
7. During the celebration of Confirmation we are renewing our _____ vows. **Baptismal**
8. This gift of the Holy Spirit helps us to look at facts objectively and intelligently. It aids us in choosing the right path that will lead to God. **Knowledge**

Across

3. Confirmation is the third Sacrament of _____. **Initiation**
4. In one of Jesus' parables he listed the Corporal Works of _____. One of the works listed was "For I was hungry and you gave me food". **Mercy**
Bonus point: Can anyone list all 7? I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me
5. This sacrament was formally known as Confessions. **Reconciliation**
9. Spreading the good news and actively living out your faith. **Discipleship**
10. The Examine of _____ is a type of prayer created by St. Ignatius to guide us as we reflect on our day. **Consciousness**
As disciples of Christ, it's important to develop a well formed conscience so that we can live out our faith in a way that brings us closer to God
11. This brings us closer to God. **Prayer**
12. True or False, celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation is the last thing we need to do as Catholics. **False.**

This is not the last step. We are never done. We're on a journey with Christ for our entire lives. Some of you may still have a lot of questions about your faith. It's ok if you don't have all the answers right now. Again, repeat, this is a *Sacrament of Initiation*.

Some people get confused and think that receiving confirmation means you're officially an adult. But that's not entirely true. These graces are strengthening you to help you make more adult decisions. It doesn't mean you will have all the answers and it doesn't mean you won't make any more mistakes.

In receiving the grace of confirmation it is fulfilling your baptismal promises and *matur-*
ing those graces. It's an ongoing thing though. The Holy Spirit will continue filling you for the rest of your life. The 7 gifts will help you through all situations you may come across in life. Once you are confirmed you are even more obliged to use those gifts and be Christ for others.

8. Closing Prayer— Awareness Examen (to be read slowly)

Introduction: This is a way for us to reflect on where God is in our daily life. Through this prayer, we recognize what brings us closer to God and what may draw us away from God. Through this prayer we can focus our values and priorities and how we can play our part in the Body of Christ.

I invite you to get in a comfortable position to close your eyes. (PAUSE 1...2...3...4...5...)

Keep in mind that you are in the presence of God, and that God is in you, and around you, and surrounding you with love. Reflect on one thing from today you are grateful for (PAUSE 1...2...3...4...5....) Take a moment to go back to the beginning of your day. (PAUSE 1...2...3...4...5....) When you woke up in your warm bed, how did you feel? (PAUSE 1...2...3...4...5....)

What did you do this morning... (PAUSE 1...2...3...4...5....) Reflect on your day (PAUSE 1...2...3...) and the interactions you had with every person you came across today... your parents... friends... teachers. (PAUSE 1...2...3...4...5....)

Continue to go through each hour of the day as if you were flipping through the pages of a book. (PAUSE 1...2...3...4...5....) Can you think a specific moment when you experienced community? (PAUSE 1...2...3...4...5....).....

Have a conversation with Jesus about your day. You might want to thank him for some of the good things that happened to you today. Maybe you want to say sorry for disappointing or hurting someone. (PAUSE 1...2...3...4...5....) Name something specific you need help with. (PAUSE 1-2 min) Finish up your conversation with Jesus, (PAUSE 1...2...3...4...5....) and when you are done you may open your eyes. (PAUSE 1...2...3...4...5....) Let's finish our prayer with an **Our Father**.

9. Reminders

- **April 24— Full day retreat in Buckeystown, MD**
- ***Sign up for Confirmation interviews***
- **Service hours and reflection due May 1st!! 20 hours of direct service and 1 page reflection. (on Holy Trinity Youth Ministry) website**
 - HT service opps (look in bulletin) or website
 - ***April 16th—Service Day with the Little Friends for Peace (the Peace Camp organization)***
 - ***Peace Camp applications are due May 15th.***
- **Collect nametags**
- **Please fill out survey/evaluation that will be sent via email— in order to improve our program and continue what works well.**