

Confirmation Intergenerational Program “Confirmation in Word, Ritual, and Symbols”

Learning Objectives

“Confirmation in Word, Ritual, and Symbols” guides learners of all ages to...

- develop a deeper understanding of the theology, symbols, and rituals of the Sacrament of Confirmation (*know-what*)
- recognize the importance of the Sacrament of Confirmation and our mission as disciples of Jesus Christ and members of the Catholic community (*know-why*)
- to live more consciously and actively their Christian responsibility in ministry within the community and to the world (*know-how*)

Catechism Connection

1212-1311

Background Readings

Catechism of the Catholic Church. Washington, DC: USCC Publishing, 1997. (Sacrament of Confirmation)

Rite of Confirmation. Sacred Congregation for Divine Worship. 1971.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. Sacred Congregation for Divine Worship. 1972, 1988.

Finley, Mitch. *The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit*. Liguori, MO: Liguori Publications, 2001.

Haase OFM, Albert, and Bridget Haase, OSU. *Enkindled – Holy Spirit, Holy Gifts*.

Cincinnati: St. Anthony Messenger Press, 2001.

Hughes, Kathleen. *Saying Amen – A Mystagogy of Sacrament*. Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 1999.

Johnson, Elizabeth. *Who is the Holy Spirit?* (Catholic Update C0695) Cincinnati: St. Anthony Messenger Press.

Luebering, Carol. *Confirmation: A Deepening of Our Christian Identity*. (Catholic Update C1095) Cincinnati: St. Anthony Messenger Press.

Mick, Lawrence. *Forming the Assembly to Celebrate the Sacraments*. Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 2002.

Richstatter, Thomas. *Sacraments – How Catholics Pray*. Cincinnati: St. Anthony Messenger Press, 1995.

Richstatter, Thomas. *Sacraments of Initiation, Sacraments of Invitation*. (Catholic Update C0301) Cincinnati: St. Anthony Messenger Press.

Shannon, William. *The Sacraments of Initiation*. (Exploring the New Catechism J0994) Cincinnati: St. Anthony Messenger Press.

Potential Uses

- Sacramental preparation session for children, adolescents, or adults preparing for Confirmation
- Sacramental preparation session for adults in the RCIA
- Preparation program for parents or families who have a family member celebrating Confirmation
- Preparation program on the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil
- Preparation program on the Sacrament of Confirmation connected to the parish's celebration of Confirmation, Pentecost, the Easter Season, and Sunday Lectionary readings on the theme of mission, Holy Spirit, etc.

Session Resources

Before the Session

Environment

Set-up a Confirmation prayer center (table) with the symbols of Confirmation: Bible, cross or crucifix, bowl of oil, paschal (Easter) candle, symbol or artwork of the Holy Spirit, *Rite of Confirmation*.

Home Kit

To bridge the session from the parish to the home prepare a variety of “take-home” symbols that you can give the participants during the session. At the end of the session give them the Home Activities: *Ritual Moments* and encourage them to reflect on the symbols in prayer at home. There are *Ritual Moments* for Sponsor, Baptismal Promises, Chrism and Anointing, Laying On of Hands, and Sealing with the Holy Spirit.

Suggested Take Home Symbols

- A small (plastic) bottle of oil (olive oil or vegetable oil or baby oil) to take home with them – to remind them of their anointing.
- A symbol of the Holy Spirit in artwork, prayer card, etc.
- A small cross to take home with them – to remind them of their commitment to be a witness to their faith in Jesus Christ.

Home Activities at Generations of Faith Online

- Ritual Moments: Confirmation
- Meal Ritual: Fruits of the Spirit
- Table Ritual: Gifts of the Spirit
- Scripture Reflections on Confirmation

People of Faith – Generations Learning Together Magazines (Harcourt Religion)

- *Celebrating the Sacraments: Baptism and Confirmation* (Volume 4, number 1)

Catholic Update (St. Anthony Messenger Press)

The Sacraments of Initiation: Sacraments of Invitation. Thomas Richstatter, O.F.M. Catholic Update C0301.

The Sacraments of Christian Initiation. William Shannon. Exploring the New Catechism J0794.

Confirmation: A Deepening of Our Christian Identity. Carol Leubering. Catholic Update C1095.

Confirmation: 7 Symbols in 1 Sacrament. Thomas Richstatter, O.F.M. Youth Update Y0497.

Prayer Resource

For additional prayer services consult:

- Bross, Jean and Robert Piercy. *Confirmation – Rituals and Retreats*. Denver, CO: Living the Good News, 1997.
- Chateau, Kathy and Paula Miller. *Celebrating Catholic Rites and Rituals*. Mystic, CT: Twenty-Third Publications, 1998.
- Haas, David. *Increase Our Faith – Parish Prayer Services for Whole Community Catechesis*. (Three Volumes: Year A, B, C) Mystic, CT: Twenty-Third Publications, 2004, 2005, 2006.
- Schneider, Valerie. *Confirmed in the Spirit*. Mystic, CT: Twenty-Third, 1995.

Materials for the Session

Gathering

- Name tags
- Community building activities
- Opening Prayer Service Handout
- Bible

All Ages Opening Learning Experience

In-Depth Learning Experience

Supplies

- poster board or newsprint and markers for recording responses from activities
- 8.5 x 11 construction paper (different colors)
- marking pens, crayons, glue, and other arts and crafts materials
- pictures/photos of images of the Holy Spirit
- file cards

Handouts

- *Celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation: Rite and Symbols*
- *Images of the Holy Spirit in the Bible*
- *Gifts of the Holy Spirit*
- *Renewal of Baptismal Promises*

Youth Handouts

- Bellitto, Christopher. *Holy Spirit – Giving Your Life the Light Touch*. (Youth Update Y0998) Cincinnati: St. Anthony Messenger Press.
- Richstatter, Thomas. *Confirmation: 7 Symbols in 1 Sacrament*. (Youth Update Y0497) Cincinnati: St. Anthony Messenger Press.

Parent and Adult Handouts

- Johnson, Elizabeth. *Who is the Holy Spirit?* (Catholic Update C0695) Cincinnati: St. Anthony Messenger Press.

Books

- Bible
- Bibles for each family and individual (or create a handout with the Scripture passages used in this session)

Video

- Adolescents and Adults: *Sealing with God's Spirit – Sacrament of Confirmation*. (Catholic Update Video) St. Anthony Messenger Press. (Teaching Segment)
- Children: *We Belong: Baptism and Confirmation or Who Is the Spirit?* (St. Anthony Messenger Press).

Sharing Learning Reflections and Home Application

Closing

- Closing Prayer Service

Session at a Glance

Part One: Gathering (15 minutes)

Part Two: All Ages Learning Experience

Part Three: In-Depth Learning Experience (100 minutes)

Choose a Learning Group Format

- Whole Group Format
- Age Group Format
- Learning Activity Centers

Learning Plan

1. Introduction to the Sacrament of Confirmation
2. Symbol 1: Laying On of Hands
3. Symbol 2: Anointing with Chrism
4. Symbol 3: Holy Spirit and Gifts of the Holy Spirit
5. Summary Presentation: The Sacrament of Confirmation

Part Four: Sharing Learning Reflections and Home Application (20 minutes)

Part 5. Closing Prayer Service (10 minutes)

Part 1

Gathering (15 minutes)

1. Registration and Hospitality

- Welcome people and ask them to sign in for the program.
- Provide name tags or invite people to make their own.
- Distribute the Home Kit for the session, including any handouts participants will need for the session. (You can also distribute handouts for the In-Depth Learning program at the beginning of the activity.)
- Invite people to share a meal; depending on time of day, the program may end with a meal instead.

Welcome

[spoken text] Welcome the participants to the program and introduce the theme of the session, using the words below or your own words.

The Sacrament of Confirmation session presents an understanding of the theology, symbols, and rituals of the Sacrament of Confirmation. We are going to explore the meaning of the Sacrament of Confirmation and discover the importance of Confirmation for our Catholic faith as a community and as individuals. The goal of the session is to help everyone recognize the importance of the Sacrament of Confirmation and our mission as disciples of Jesus Christ and members of the Catholic community; and to live more consciously and actively their Christian responsibility in ministry within the community and to the world.

2. Group Formation

In the Whole Group Format, organize people into intergenerational small groups of approximately eight people OR organize table groups of families with children, adolescents, and adults. If you organize into intergenerational groups, participants will remain with their group for the entire program. Ask all members of the same family to sit together in these intergenerational groups. Each group should have as many of the following categories as possible: family (parents, children, teens), young adults, adults without children, and older adults. If members of the same family are intergenerational – children, teens, parents, and grandparents – keep them together in one group.

3. Opening Prayer Service

Prayer, Scripture, and ritual is woven throughout the session, so begin with a short prayer service on Confirmation. Review the *Rite of Confirmation* for prayer texts and Scripture suggestions. Consult the closing prayers for additional suggestions. There are a variety of music suggestions after the closing prayers. For additional prayer service ideas consult:

- Bross, Jean and Robert Piercy. *Confirmation – Rituals and Retreats*. Denver, CO: Living the Good News, 1997.
- Chateau, Kathy and Paula Miller. *Celebrating Catholic Rites and Rituals*. Mystic, CT: Twenty-Third Publications, 1998.
- Schneider, Valerie. *Confirmed in the Spirit*. Mystic, CT: Twenty-Third, 1995.

Part 2

All Ages Learning Experience

In this session the opening prayer service serves as the All Ages Learning Experience. After prayer and community building move right into the In-depth Learning Experiences

Part 3

In-Depth Learning Experiences (100 minutes)

The In-Depth Learning Experience is designed so that it can work flexibly with all three formats: **Whole Group** (guiding the participants through the lesson plan in intergenerational groups), **Age Group** (using the lesson plan with break-out groups for families with children, adolescents, and adults), and **Activity Centers** (using the activities for the three primary symbols of the sacrament as individual learning centers).

Whole Group Format

This format guides the entire assembly through each of the learning experiences.

You might choose this format if you have:

- a large physical space with good acoustics/sound system and furniture to comfortably accommodate the learners
- a competent large group facilitator/master of ceremonies able to provide clear directions and to manage the dynamics and energy of a large group
- a group of catechists who feel comfortable moving through the assembly offering assistance, or a large enough team of table leader catechists to have one catechist work with each table group
- a learning topic that lends itself to everyone learning the same thing at the same time, but in different ways, in the same space

Facilitation Tips for This Format

Guide small groups through each of the activities at the same time.

- Organize people into table groups based on age groupings: families with children (grades 1-5), middle school adolescents, high school adolescents, young adults, and adults.
- The lead facilitator guides the entire group through each of the learning experiences. All presentations and activity instructions are given to the whole group.
- The age-appropriate learning activities within each learning experience are conducted in table groups.
- Where needed, catechists and small group leaders facilitate the work of the table groups.

Whole Group Format Outline

You can use a *Whole Group Format* guiding groups through each of the symbol/ritual activities at the same time. Organize people into table groups. Groups can be intergenerational or organized by age groups, e.g., families with children, young adolescents, older adolescents, young adults, and adults. The lead facilitator guides the entire group through the lesson plan. All presentations and activity instructions are given to the whole group. The age-appropriate

learning activities for each symbol/ritual are conducted in table groups. Where needed, catechists/small group leaders facilitate the work of the table groups.

Learning Plan Outline

Guide the participants through three of the symbol/ritual activities. Consider using the renewal of Baptismal promises in the closing prayer experience.

Learning Plan Outline

1. Introduction to the Sacrament of Confirmation
2. Symbol 1: Laying On of Hands
3. Symbol 2: Anointing with Chrism
4. Symbol 3: Holy Spirit and Gifts of the Holy Spirit
5. Summary Presentation: The Meaning of Confirmation

Age Group Format

This format provides for three separate parallel learning programs. Though age groups are separated, each one is focusing on the same topic.

You might choose this format if you have:

- an adequate number of meeting spaces for the various groups to gather
- an adequate number of competent facilitators and catechists to work with each group
- a topic that is best explored through age-specific learning

Facilitation Tips for This Format

- Organize participants into three or more parallel learning groups: families with children (grades 1-5), adolescents (grades 6-12), and adults.
- If there are a large number of adolescents, divide them into two groups: middle school and high school.

Organize separate groups for young adults, adults, and older adults. Or you can give the adults their own choice for forming small groups.

- Direct the adolescents and adults into small groups. Give them all the handouts and learning materials needed for the learning experiences
- Guide the families with children into table groups of two or more families. Give each table all the handouts and learning materials necessary for the learning experiences.
- A facilitator must guide all of the families through each learning experience, while catechist move from table to table assisting.

Age Group Format Outline

The In-Depth Learning Plan can be utilized for break-out groups of families with children, adolescents, and adults.

Families with Children

You can organize the learning activities in two ways. The lesson plan is designed for table groups of two or more families (you can organize individual family groups). Make sure each table has the supplies, instructions, and learning materials necessary to do the activities. A facilitator guides the families through each activity. Catechists move from table to table assisting families.

Learning Plan Outline

1. Introduction to the Sacrament of Confirmation
2. Symbol 1: Laying On of Hands
3. Symbol 2: Anointing with Chrism
4. Symbol 3: Holy Spirit and Gifts of the Holy Spirit

5. Summary Presentation: The Meaning of Confirmation

You can also organize the lesson in activity centers. Organize activity centers for the four symbol/ritual activities in the meeting room with tables and chairs (or floor space) for children and parents to learn, work, discuss. Each center is facilitated by a team of facilitators/catechists who guide the families through the activity plan. Each center has all of the materials necessary for conducting the activity. Be sure to keep the activity centers far enough apart so that people can focus on their activity.

Learning Plan Outline for using Activity Centers

1. Introduction to the Sacrament of Confirmation
2. Symbols of Confirmation (activity centers)
 - Symbol 1: Laying On of Hands
 - Symbol 2: Anointing with Chrism
 - Symbol 3: Holy Spirit and Gifts of the Holy Spirit
3. Summary Presentation: The Sacrament of Confirmation

Adolescent and Adult Lesson Plan

Learning Plan Outline

1. Introduction to the Sacrament of Confirmation
2. Symbol 1: Laying On of Hands
3. Symbol 2: Anointing with Chrism
4. Symbol 3: Holy Spirit and Gifts of the Holy Spirit
5. Summary Presentation: The Meaning of Confirmation

Learning Activity Centers

The Learning Activity Center Format provides structured learning activities at a variety of stations or centers in a common area. Learning activity centers are self-contained learning experiences, focusing on a specific topic or theme. They include brief presentations by the facilitators, interactive and experiential activities, group discussion and sharing. Each center can utilize a different learning method, such as drama or role play, creative arts, prayer, ritual, film, games, demonstrations, exhibits, and music.

One of the best ways to envision a Learning Activity Center Format is to imagine visiting a children's museum or one of the Epcot pavilions at Walt Disney World in Orlando. You will find a variety of interactive, experiential exhibits, media presentations, and staff-facilitated learning activities.

Learning Activity Centers can be used with all age groups. They can be developed for an intergenerational audience or for particular age groups, such as families with children or adolescents or adults. Learning Activity Centers can also be utilized in the families with children learning program within the Age Group Format.

Scheduling and Learning Plan Outline

You can use the *Activities Center Format* by developing intergenerational activity centers for each of the five symbol/ritual activities developed in the lesson plans for families with children, teens, and adults. It would be best to organize the participants into groups so they can easily move from one activity center to the next (see organizing ideas below).

Learning Plan Outline for using Activity Centers

1. Introduction to the Sacrament of Confirmation
2. Rituals and Symbols of Confirmation (activity centers):
 - Symbol: Laying On of Hands
 - Symbol: Anointing with Chrism
 - Symbol: Holy Spirit and Gifts of the Holy Spirit
3. Summary Presentation: The Meaning of the Sacrament of Confirmation

Here is a sample schedule with three rounds of learning centers, allocating 25 minutes per activity center:

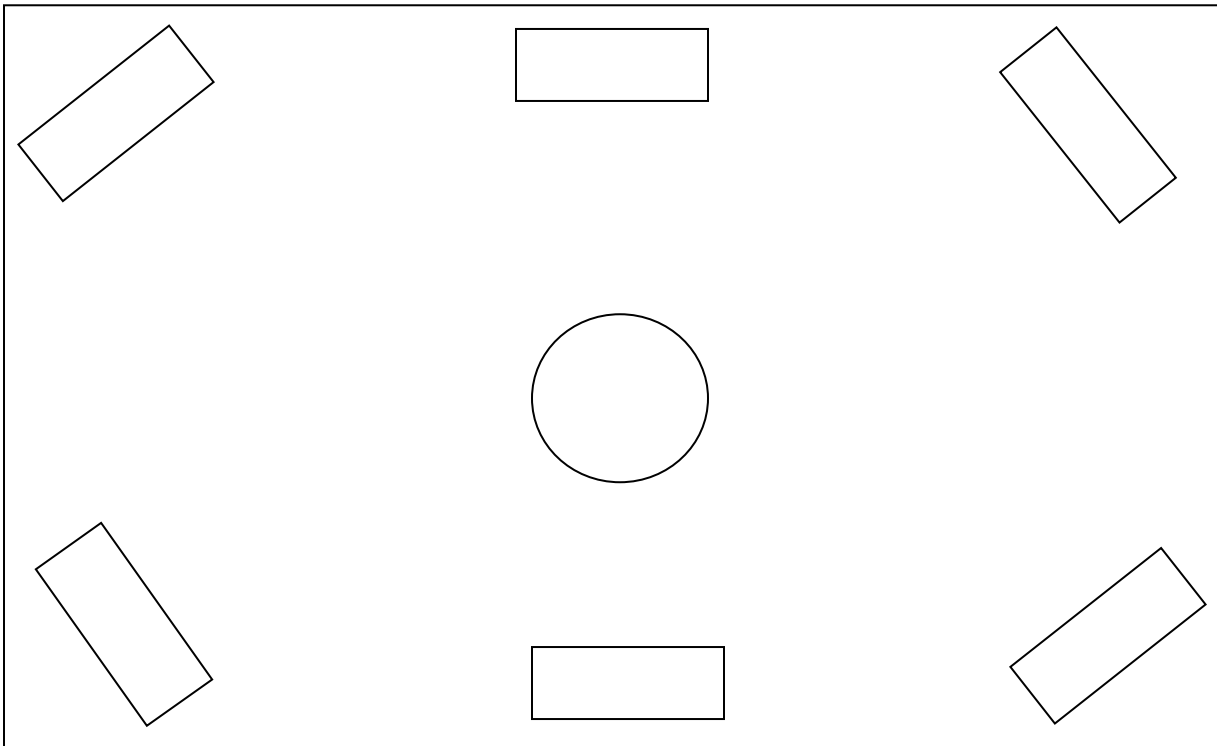
- 6:00 Hospitality and Dinner
- 6:30 Part 1. Gathering and Prayer
Part 2. All Ages Learning Experience
- 6:45 Introduction to the Sacrament of Confirmation
- 6:50 Round 1: Learning Activity Centers
- 7:15 Break (move to next center)
- 7:20 Round 2: Learning Activity Centers
- 7:45 Break (move to next center)
- 7:50 Round 3: Learning Activity Centers
- 8:15 Break (gather in intergenerational groups)

- 8:20 Summary Presentation
- 8:30 Part 4: Sharing Learning Reflections and Home Application
- 8:50 Closing Prayer

Organizing the Activity Centers

There are two ways to set up activity centers: one large room, or multiple break-out rooms.

If you arrange all of the learning centers in one large meeting gym or parish hall, set-up the centers around the outside of the room (see example). The center space can become a storytelling center with a carpet or chairs for children to sit. The example below shows six different learning centers plus the storytelling center. You may still need separate rooms if you have a learning center that focuses on prayer (worship space) or shows a film (meeting room).



Keep in mind the following when organizing in one room:

- Make sure there is adequate space between learning centers so that people are not interrupted by the activity at other centers.
- Set-up each learning activity center with tables and chairs (or carpeted floor space) for participants to listen, discuss, and create. Children and teens can use the floor, but adults will need chairs.
- Assign each learning center a number and post the number on the wall and floor at each center.

If you arrange learning centers in multiple rooms such as meeting rooms, classrooms, parish hall, gym, worship space, assign one learning center to each space. This format resembles a conference where people move from room to room for each session. Place the learning center name outside each room and develop a list of centers with locations, and a map if necessary, so that people can easily find the correct room.

Organizing Groups

Once you have determined how many learning centers you will offer, you can organize participants accordingly. If you offer four learning centers, you can organize the participants into four groups of equal size and assign each group a specific sequence that they will move through the learning centers. Assign a number to each learning center and an alphabet letter to each group, then describe how they will move through the centers: Group A: 1-2-3-4; Group B: 2-3-4-1, Group C: 3-4-1-2, and Group D: 4-1-2-3. If you offer three learning centers, there would be three groups rotating among the three learning centers. Keep families together in one group.

If you offer more than three or four learning centers, allow people to choose the learning centers they are going to experience. Remind them that if a particular center is crowded, they can move to another center and then return to their first choice in another round. Families with children should stay together because the activities require parents to work with their children.

Staffing

Each center is facilitated by a team of facilitators/catechists who guide the participants through the activity plan. The teaching team facilitates the overall learning plan for the center: making presentations, guiding learning activities, organizing discussions, and so on. The number of team members needed depends on the complexity of the activities and the number of participants at a learning center. Teams should have at least two or three people, but some centers will require five or six people. Older adolescents can also serve as members of the teaching team, and are especially valuable in facilitating creative activities and dramatic presentations.

To present the focus of each learning activity center, ask the teaching teams to present a very brief overview of what they will be doing in each center. Give each participant the list of learning activity centers with short descriptions, a schedule and the locations of the centers.

Sacrament of Confirmation

Learning Experience

Preparation

Supplies

- poster board or newsprint and markers for recording responses from activities
- 8.5 x 11 construction paper (different colors)
- marking pens, crayons, glue, and other arts and crafts materials
- pictures/photos of images of the Holy Spirit
- file cards

Handouts (see children, adolescent, adult, and family sessions)

- *Celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation: Rite and Symbols*
- *Images of the Holy Spirit in the Bible*
- *Gifts of the Holy Spirit*
- *Renewal of Baptismal Promises*

Youth Handouts

- Bellitto, Christopher. *Holy Spirit – Giving Your Life the Light Touch*. (Youth Update Y0998) Cincinnati: St. Anthony Messenger Press.
- Richstatter, Thomas. *Confirmation: 7 Symbols in 1 Sacrament*. (Youth Update Y0497) Cincinnati: St. Anthony Messenger Press.

Parent and Adult Handouts

- Johnson, Elizabeth. *Who is the Holy Spirit?* (Catholic Update C0695) Cincinnati: St. Anthony Messenger Press.

Books

- Bible
- Bibles for each family and individual (or create a handout with the Scripture passages used in this session)

Video

- Adolescents and Adults: *Sealing with God's Spirit – Sacrament of Confirmation*. (Catholic Update Video) St. Anthony Messenger Press. (Teaching Segment)
- Children: *We Belong: Baptism and Confirmation* or *Who Is the Spirit?* (St. Anthony Messenger Press).

Introduction to the Symbol Activities

Begin the session by asking the participants, who have been confirmed, to take a few minutes to recall their Confirmation (parents, adolescents who have been confirmed, and adults). Ask them to identify the various rituals and actions that took place at their Confirmation. Use following questions to guide the participants in sharing their experience.

- I was confirmed when I was ____ (age) at ____ (parish)
- My sponsor was... He or she was chosen because...
- A significant memory of my Confirmation is...
- I was confirmed because.... (reasons, meaning of Confirmation)

Begin by explaining in your own words:

*There are four symbols and rituals that are central to the Sacrament of Confirmation – **Renewal of Baptismal Promises, Laying on of Hands, Anointing with Chrism (Oil), and the Holy Spirit and Gifts of the Spirit.** In this session we are going to examine three of the symbols and rituals: Laying On of Hands, Anointing, and Holy Spirit by...*

- *experiencing the symbol in a hands-on manner*
- *reflecting on what ways we come in contact with, experience and/or use the symbol in daily life*
- *connecting with the significance the symbol has in the Rite of Confirmation*

Symbol 1: Laying On of Hands

Reference: *Catechism of the Catholic Church #1299*

Materials: Prior to the session gather a variety of pictures that demonstrate human touch: for example, a parent lifting a child, a grandparent rocking a baby, a nurse holding a patient, two friends embracing. You can have a packet of pictures for each family (or family cluster) or scan the pictures and show them using a PowerPoint presentation.

1. Experience

Families with Children

Begin by showing the pictures to the group or asking families to review the pictures. As you show the pictures emphasize how important touch is for all of us.

Second, ask the families to identify stories from their own experience when touch was important for them, e.g., a child fell and hurt themselves and mom or dad carefully cleaned and bandaged their scraped knee; or a child did well on a report card or won a game and got a big hug from their parents. Ask individual families or family clusters to identify and then share their stories/experiences. Conclude the sharing by asking for a list of examples and write them on newsprint or poster board for all to see.

Adolescents

Ask the young people to identify stories or examples of when touch was important for them, e.g., being comforted by a friend, winning a game, celebrating an accomplishment, greeting a family member you haven't seen in a long time. List the stories/examples on newsprint for everyone to see.

Adults

Ask the participants to identify stories or examples of when touch was important for them, e.g., embracing your spouse or loved one, being comforted by a friend, celebrating an accomplishment, greeting a family member you haven't seen in a long time. List the stories/examples on newsprint for everyone to see.

2. Reflect

Invite the participants to talk about the importance of touch using questions such as the following:

- Why was touch so important in the stories we named?
- Why does our human experience tell us about the power of touch?
- Why is touch so important in our lives? What does it mean to us?
- What would happen if we did not have touch in our lives?

3. Connect: Touch in the Bible

Jesus almost always touched those he healed. Share with the participants examples of Jesus' use of touch. You might begin by reading one story to the whole group and point out Jesus' use of touch and its importance. Then invite the participants to read one or more of the following stories.

- Jesus heals the daughter of Jairus (Mark 5:41).
- Jesus cures the blind man at Bethsaida (Mark 8:22-26).
- A woman touches Jesus' cloak (Luke 5:27-34).
- Jesus heals a leper (Luke 5:12-16).
- Jesus heals a crippled woman (Luke 13:10-13).
- Jesus washes the disciples' feet (John 13:4-11).

Have the participants to name how Jesus used touch and why it was so important to him.

Here are several other ways to present the Gospel stories:

Option 1: Dramatizing the Gospel Stories

Consider presenting one or more of the Gospel stories by dramatizing them. Consult the following resources for dramas.

- Marmouget, Rosemary. *Scripture Alive – Role-Plays for Youth*. Winona, MN: St. Mary's Press, 1997.
- Schneider, M. Valerie. *Gospel Scenes for Teens – 23 Guided Prayer Meditations*. Mystic, CT: Twenty Third Publications, 2000.

- O'Connell-Roussell, Sheila and Therese Vordran Nichols. *Lectionary-Based Gospel Dramas for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany*. Winona, MN: St. Mary's Press, 1999.
- O'Connell-Roussell, Sheila, and Therese Vorndran Nichols. *Lectionary-Based Gospel Dramas for Lent and the Easter Triduum*. Winona: St. Mary's Press, 1999.

Option 2: Jesus of Nazareth Video

Consider showing some of the stories using the video, *Jesus of Nazareth*. Consult the guide at the end of the session for a list of scenes.

Option 3: Read and Present Activity (Adolescents and Adults)

If you would like to actively engage the adolescents in presenting the meaning of these stories, you can use the following process:

1. Organize the large group into small groups and assign each group one Scripture story.
2. Their task will be to explain how Jesus' use of touch in his ministry. Ask each group to read the Scripture passage, take a few minutes to discuss the passage, and then develop a brief presentation summarizing the passage and what they learned about Jesus' use of touch.
3. Ask each group to make their presentation to everyone.

4. Connect: Rite of Confirmation

Explain the important of touch (laying on of hands) in the Sacrament of Confirmation by presenting the following information using the text or your own words:

Hands are a symbol of power. Specifically the laying on of hands refers to an ancient practice of conferring power onto a person by placing both hands on that person's head. In Genesis old Isaac lays his hands on his son Jacob to give him authority over the tribe. Kings and knights traditionally received their official power through a laying on of hands. The practice was also common in the early church to symbolize passing on the power of the Holy Spirit, which the Apostles had received at Pentecost.

Hands are a particularly apt symbol for the Holy Spirit working in people. We bless with our hands. The priest at Mass gives the sign of the cross with his hand over the assembly. Friends pat each other on the back to offer encouragement or congratulations. Artists often depict God creating the world or giving life.

Similarly, we work with our hands, create things with our hands, and "give each other a hand." Hands greet, comfort, and console. Hands touch other people, and can help heal simply by their touch. Hands can support and lift up others. They can help to guide. They can be used to reach out and make connections with people.

In the Rite of Confirmation, the bishop initially "lays hands on" all the candidates together by extending his hands over the whole group. Meanwhile, he prays for the Spirit to help and guide the candidates with the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. A few moments later, when the candidates individually come up to the bishop to be anointed with chrism, he places a hand on each person's head, which is symbolically the place of wisdom. The feeling of a hand on the head also gives a

person the feeling of being strengthened by another's touch. A bond is made; the spirit of one touches the spirit of the other.

(From *Celebrating Sacraments* by Joseph Stoutzenberger, Winona, MN: St. Mary's Press, 2000. Excerpts from pages 166. Used with permission.)

5. Closing

Closing this part of the session by inviting the participants to pray for each other. Ask them to stand, face each other, and extend their hands outward. Pray the following prayer from the Rite of Confirmation. Ask them to respond "Amen" after each prayer.

*God our Father
made you his children by water and the Holy Spirit:
may he bless you
and watch over you with his fatherly love.
We pray... Response: Amen.*

*Jesus Christ the Son of God
promised that the Spirit of truth
would be with his Church for ever:
may he bless you and give you courage
in professing the true faith.
We pray... Response: Amen.*

*The Holy Spirit
came down upon the disciples
and set their hearts on fire with love:
may he bless you,
keep you one in faith and love
and bring you to the joy of God's kingdom.
We pray... Response: Amen.
(Rite of Confirmation #33)*

Symbol 2: Anointing with Chrism (Oil)

Reference: *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #1293-1296, 1300-1301

Suggested Take Home: Give the participants a small (plastic) bottle of oil (olive oil or vegetable oil) to take home with them – to remind them of the anointing at Confirmation.

1. Experience

Give each group a small bowl of olive oil or vegetable oil. Have one person in the group move from person to person and “anoint” the palms of their hands with oil OR pass the bowl from person to person and have them anoint the hands of the person to their left.

Explain to the participants that oil is one of the symbols used in Confirmation.

Ask participants to close their eyes and slowly and silently massage their hands with the oil. Ask them to think about what the oil does to their skin, and how it feels as they continue to gently massage their hands.

2. Reflect

After a minute or two, ask the participants to open their eyes, and within their group talk about what purposes oil serves in our lives. Questions leaders can use to guide the discussion include the following:

- What images or experiences do you associate with oil?
- When and how is oil used in our daily lives? in our world?
- What problems would result if we did not have oil in our lives?
- Where do we typically come in contact with oil, where can it usually be found?
- How is oil strengthening, protecting, and healing for you?

3. Connect: Rite of Confirmation

Present the following information using the text or your own words:

Have you ever watched public officials take oaths of office? They raise their hand and vow to carry out their duties and responsibilities of their offices. In ancient times anointing with oil served that function. Kings and priests were anointed to symbolize their commission to those roles. Jesus himself is called Christ, which means “the Anointed One.” In the Rite of Confirmation, Christians are anointed by the bishop with chrism and thus are commissioned to be Christ for others. This action also recalls their anointing with chrism at Baptism.

The anointing at Confirmation is an act of consecrating the person, to share more completely in the mission of Jesus Christ and the Church. In the Roman Catholic Church, the bishop usually does the anointing, as well as the laying on of hands, to link the person symbolically to the universal church, the church of the apostles.

To be anointed the candidates come forward one by one. As each one approaches the bishop, that candidate's sponsor places her or his right hand on the candidate's shoulder and gives the bishop the candidate's name. In the essential words and actions of the sacrament, the bishop dips his right thumb in the chrism, puts his hand on the person's head, and makes the sign of the cross on the forehead, saying, "Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit." The bishop then gives the person the sign of peace.

(From *Celebrating Sacraments* by Joseph Stoutzenberger, Winona, MN: St. Mary's Press, 2000. Excerpts from page 167, 170. Used with permission.)

4. Connect: Jesus and Anointing

In Luke 4, Jesus enters the synagogue in Nazareth to announce the beginning of his ministry. Jesus' proclamation in the synagogue reinforces the understanding of being anointed for mission.

Read from the Gospel of Luke Jesus' proclamation from the prophet Isaiah. (You may want to write this on newsprint or poster board for all to see.)

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord. (Luke 4:18-19)

You may also want to read the story of the messengers of John the Baptist finding Jesus to ask about his ministry. Read from Matthew 11:2-19 or Luke 7:18-35.

Explain to everyone that Jesus is anointed by God for his mission which included:

- bringing the good news to all people that God loves them and wants them to live God's commandments
- serving the needs of people who are poor and outcast/lonely
- forgiving the sins of people so that they can feel God's love again
- healing physical illness and making people healthy again
- freeing people who are oppressed by others and the society or captive to anything that stops them from experience God's love and forgiveness

Ask the participants to identify examples of Jesus living his mission. Collect examples from the group and write them on newsprint or poster board.

To supplement the stories identified by the participants share several stories from the four gospels that illustrate how Jesus lived his mission. You can present a sampling of stories or engage people in studying several key passages by using the "read and present" activity.

Activity Option 1: Read and Present

1. Organize the large group into small groups and assign each group one Scripture story. Vary the passages – healing stories, mission stories, feeding stories, etc.

2. Their task will be to explain how Jesus lives his mission (Luke 4). Ask each group to read the Scripture passage, take a few minutes to discuss the passage, and then develop a brief presentation summarizing the passage and what they learned about Jesus' mission.
3. Ask each group to make their presentation to everyone.

Activity Option 2: Dramatizing the Gospel Stories

Consider asking small groups to present a Gospel story by dramatizing it. Consult the following resources for dramas.

- Marmouget, Rosemary. *Scripture Alive – Role-Plays for Youth*. Winona, MN: St. Mary's Press, 1997.
- Schneider, M. Valerie. *Gospel Scenes for Teens – 23 Guided Prayer Meditations*. Mystic, CT: Twenty Third Publications, 2000.
- O'Connell-Roussell, Sheila and Therese Vordran Nichols. *Lectionary-Based Gospel Dramas for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany*. Winona, MN: St. Mary's Press, 1999.
- O'Connell-Roussell, Sheila, and Therese Vorndran Nichols. *Lectionary-Based Gospel Dramas for Lent and the Easter Triduum*. Winona: St. Mary's Press, 1999.

Activity Option 3: Jesus of Nazareth Video

Consider showing some of the stories using the video, *Jesus of Nazareth*. Consult the guide at the end of the session for a list of scenes.

Actions of Jesus	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Cured a demoniac		1:23-27	4:33-36	
Healed a leper	8:2-4	1:40-45	5:12-16	
Healed a centurion's servant	8:5-13		7:1-10	
Healed Peter's mother-in-law	8:14-15	1:29-31	4:38-39	
Healed the sick in the evening	8:16-17	1:32-34	4:40-41	
Cast out demons and sent them into swine	8:28-34	5:1-20	8:26-39	
Healed a paralytic	9:1-8	2:1-12	5:18-26	
Called Matthew to follow him	9:9-17	2:13-22	5:27-39	
Raised Jairus' daughter	9:18-19, 23-26	5:22-24, 35-43	8:40-42, 49-56	
Healed a woman hemorrhaging	9:20-22	5:25-34	8:43-48	
Healed two blind men	9:27-31			
Healed a demon-possessed, mute man	9:32-33			
The mission of the twelve	10:1-4	6:7-12	9:1-6	
Asked by messengers from John the Baptist ask about his ministry	11:2-19		7:18-35	
Healed a man with a withered hand	12:9-14	3:1-6	6:6-11	
Healed a demon-possessed, blind, mute man	12:22		11:14	
Fed more than 5,000 people	14:13-21	6:30-44	9:10-17	6:1-14
Healed the Syro-Phoenician woman's daughter	15:21-28	7:24-30		
Fed more than 4,000 people	15:32-39	8:1-10		
Healed an epileptic boy	17:14-18	9:17	9:38-42	
Healed two blind men near Jericho	20:29-34			
Cast out an unclean spirit		1:23-28	4:33-37	
Healed a deaf mute		7:31-37		

Healed the blind man at Bethsaida		8:22-26		
Healed blind Bartimaeus		10:46-52	18:35-43	
Raised a widow's son at Nain			7:11-17	
Healed an infirm, bent woman			13:11-13	
Cured the crippled woman			13:10-17	
Healed a man with dropsy			14:1-6	
Healed ten lepers			17:11-19	
Healed a nobleman's son				4:46-54
Healed an infirm man at Bethsaida				5:1-15
Forgives a woman caught in adultery				8:1-11
Healed a man born blind				9:1-41
Raised Lazarus				11:1-44
Pardoned a sinful woman			7:36-50	
The Mission of the Seventy-two			10:1-12	
The Return of the Seventy-two			10:17-20	
Zacchaeus the Tax Collector			19:1-10	

5. Reflection

At Baptism and Confirmation we are anointed to share in the mission of Jesus Christ. Invite the participants to think about their mission: What is God asking them to do?

One way to help everyone think about their mission is to create a "My Mission" card or plaque (file cards or paper). On their card ask each person to complete the sentence: "*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to...*" (For young children they can create a Mission Card by finding pictures or drawing a picture.)

Conclude by inviting people to share their responses with each other. Then discuss how they have seen individual Catholics and the Church (parish, diocese, global) trying to live out Jesus' mission today.

Additional Activity for Adolescents and Adults: Apostles Dilemma Simulation Game

Explain to the group that this activity is a simulation. That means that an imaginary setting or situation is created as a framework for the activity. Emphasize that all choices or statements should be authentic, even though the situation is not.

Step 1: Introduce the activity by setting the scene for the simulation game. You might say something like: "Today each of you is going to imagine that you are one of Jesus' followers. It is a short time after the empty tomb has been discovered, and the events of the past week seem like an eternity. You are going to have to decide how to keep Jesus' mission alive. What are the most important things for the followers of Jesus to do in the next months."

Step 2: Organize the participants into groups of no more than 5-6 people.

Step 3: Ask participants to read over the handout, *The Apostles' Mission*. Ask each group to choose the option on the handout they would have chosen if they had been one of the apostles or to create a new option they think best reflects what must be done to keep Jesus' mission alive.

Step 4: Ask each group to suggest at least two reasons why its choice is best. These reasons should be recorded by a member of the group.

Step 5: Each group will then present its choice and the reasons for that choice. After all of the presentations, discuss as a group how faithful the choices were to Jesus' mission. Ask the group how they have seen individual Catholics and the Church (parish, diocese, global) trying to live out Jesus' mission today.

Symbol 3: Holy Spirit and Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Reference: *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #1286-1289, 1299, 1302-1303

Suggested Take Home: A symbol of the Holy Spirit in artwork, prayer card, etc.

1. Experience and 2. Reflect

Families with Children

Create a basket or bag filled with ten cards, each with one of the following words or phrases written on it: **fire, oil, water, breath, wind, power, truth, a dove, a witness, and love.** (You will need one bag for a family cluster and multiple bags for learning activity centers.)

Family members take turns drawing a card from the bag or basket and reading the word on the card. Next, the group members talk about the item on the card:

- How do we experience this item in our lives?
- What some of the characteristics of this item?
- What are some of the things that this item does or causes to happen?

After all the cards have been drawn and discussed, take each item and discuss how the Holy Spirit is like the item on the card: **fire, oil, water, breath, wind, power, truth, a dove, a witness, and love.**

Adolescent and Adults

Engage the people in completing several of the following unfinished sentences (in small groups or in the large group):

- If the Holy Spirit were a color, I think the Spirit would be...
- Scripture uses the symbols/images of fire, wind, breath, and dove for the Spirit. A symbol I would use is...
- If the Spirit had one wish for us today, I think it would be...
- An advertising slogan that I would use to describe the Holy Spirit is...
- This is how I feel when I think of the Holy Spirit...

Using the responses from the unfinished sentences, invite people to share their insights by asking, "Who is the Holy Spirit?" Try to surface their understanding of the Holy Spirit and what they think of when they hear Holy Spirit. Ask them when and where do they see the Holy Spirit in life, in the Church, etc.

3. Connect: The Holy Spirit in the Bible and Church

Families with Children/All Ages

There are many images of the Holy Spirit in the Bible. Using the Handout: *Images of the Holy Spirit in the Bible*, review the following images with the families. You can also ask individual families or family clusters to review the passages, instead of your presentation.

Fire: He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. (Luke 3:16)

Dove: So Jesus was baptized. And as soon as he came out of the water, the sky opened, and he saw the Spirit of God coming down on him like a dove. (Matthew 3:16)

Breath: Then he breathed upon them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” (John 20:22)

Power: The Son was sent to speak God’s message, and he has been given the full power of God’s Spirit. (John 3:34)

The Spirit is the one who gives life! Human strength can do nothing. (John 6:63)

The Holy Spirit will come upon you and give you power. Then you will tell everyone about me...everywhere in the world. (Acts 1:8)

Wind: Only God’s Spirit gives new life. The Spirit is like the wind that blows wherever it wants to. You can hear the wind, but you don’t know where it came from or where it is going. (John 3:8)

Love: God has give us the Holy Spirit, who fills our hearts with his love. (Romans 5:5)

Oil: Samuel poured the oil on David’s head... At that moment, the Spirit of the Lord took control of David and stayed with him from then on. (1 Samuel 16:3)

Water: On the last and greatest day of the feast, Jesus stood up and exclaimed, “Let anyone who thirsts come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as scripture says, ‘Rivers of living water will flow from within him.’” He said this in reference to the Spirit that those who came to believe in him were to receive. (John 7:37-39)

Truth: If you love me, you will do as I command. Then I will ask the Father to send you the Holy Spirit who will help you and always be with you. The Spirit will show you what is true. The people of the world cannot accept the Spirit, because they don’t see or know him. But you know the Spirit, who is with you and will keep on living in you. (John 14:15)

Witness: The Spirit will teach you everything and will remind you of what I said while I was with you. (John 14:26)

Adolescents and Adults

In *Who is the Holy Spirit?* three Biblical images of the Spirit are identified: (1) Spirit as wind, (2) Spirit as fire, (3) Spirit as water. Using *Who is the Holy Spirit?* present the three images of the Holy Spirit while sharing the key Biblical texts that provide examples of the image. (You may want to involve people in reading the Scripture passages and/or following along in their Bibles.)

- Spirit as Wind: Exodus 14:21-22, Ezekiel 37:4-10, John 3:8, Acts 2:1-4
- Spirit as Fire: Exodus 3:1-6 (burning bush), Luke 3:16, Acts 2—tongues of fire
- Spirit as Water: Ezekiel 36:25-26, Joel 2:28-29, Acts 2:17-18, John 7:37-39, Romans 5:5, 1 Corinthians 12:13.

Invite the group to reflect on what these three images say to them about the Holy Spirit. Compare and contrast the Biblical images with their responses to the opening activity.

Using *Who Is the Holy Spirit?* by Elizabeth Johnson (Catholic Update CO695), present a brief overview of the Holy Spirit (use the text or your own words):

- *...the Holy Spirit is God's own self in outreach to the world. The Holy Spirit is God's presence and activity among us. The Holy Spirit is God, continuously drawing near and passing by to vivify, renew and love us and the whole of creation."*
- *...the Spirit is first and foremost the Creator Spirit who creates, empowers, and fills the whole world with life. At every moment the Spirit sustains every place, every moment, every creature, the whole interconnected community of creation itself.*
- *We encounter the Spirit in nature (the natural world), in human relationships, and in the social world – in the building up of the society.*
- *There are a variety of images of the Holy Spirit in our tradition: "the hand of God reaching out of the world," the finger of God, fire (the warmth of fire – love poured into our hearts), the sun (light and warmth), a river (irrigating land and helping to bring forth vegetation), a plant (bringing forth leaves, fruits and seeds). All of these images speak of God who draws near to the world, who dwells in the world, who vivifies the world, who heals the world, who energizes and empowers the world.*

Conclude by saying:

The Spirit is simply God, present and active everywhere, pervading our life. This basic but profound reality bears repeating today, because so many do not experience God's nearness, but think of God as quite distant. This is most unfortunate. For God is with us always and everywhere: past, present, in and out of religious settings.

Through the Spirit, the risen Christ is present with us everywhere and in every moment, as pervasive as the air we breathe, as the sun or rain that blows around us, as the life that flows through our veins. This is the God we are talking about when we speak of the Holy Spirit.

4. Connect: Rite of Confirmation

Before your presentation write each gift of the Holy Spirit on a separate sheet of poster board or newsprint and post them around the room.

Present the following information about the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the Sacrament of Confirmation, using the text or your own words:

At Baptism, we hear of the role of the Holy Spirit in the prayer over the baptismal water:

*Father, look now with love on your Church, and unseal for her the foundation of baptism.
By the power of the Spirit
give to the water of this font
the grace of your Son...
cleans [those to be baptized] from sin in a new birth of innocence
by water and the Spirit
(Roman Sacramentary)*

At Confirmation, we hear about the gifts of the Holy Spirit:

*“All-powerful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
by water and the Holy Spirit
you freed your sons and daughters from sin
And gave them new life.
Send your Holy Spirit upon them
to be their Helper and Guide.
Give them the spirit of [1] wisdom and [2] understanding,
the spirit of [3] right judgment and [4] courage,
the spirit of [5] knowledge and [6] reverence.
Fill them with the spirit of [7] wonder and awe in your presence. We ask this through Christ our
Lord.”*

(Rite of Confirmation, #25)

The prayer names the tradition “Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit.” The biblical origin of these seven gifts is found in Isaiah 11:1-3 where he is foretelling the qualities of the Messiah.

*But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse,
and from his roots a bud shall blossom.*

*The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him:
a spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
a spirit of counsel and of strength,
a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the Lord,
and his delight shall be the fear of the Lord.*

[The ancient Greek and Latin translations of this passage read “piety” for “fear of the Lord” in line six; this gives us our traditional seven gifts.]

These seven gifts are the signs that the Messiah will be guided by the Spirit. The relation of these gifts to the sacrament of Confirmation becomes clear when we remember that the word “Messiah” (Christos in Greek) means “anointed.” Jesus was “anointed,” filled with the Holy Spirit at his baptism. At Confirmation we are anointed with the Holy Spirit. Throughout the Gospels we see how these seven gifts form Jesus’ personality. They are characteristic of his activity. Consider the wisdom expressed in the parables; his understanding of the poor and the sick; his right judgment when tested by the Pharisees; his courage to continue the journey to Jerusalem where he surmised what fate awaited him; his knowledge of God’s will; his reverence for his heavenly Father; his awe before the wonders of creation – the lilies of the field, the birds of the air... The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit are manifestation of the Divine Power active in the life of Jesus of Nazareth.

In Baptism, our sins are washed away and we come up from the water bath to be clothed in a garment. Putting on the baptismal garment is a visible symbol of the invisible reality of “putting on Christ.” When we are anointed with oil in Confirmation, it is a visible symbol of the invisible reality of being anointed with the Spirit, being “Christ-ed” and “messiah-ed.” We put on Christ, and the sevenfold gifts of the Spirit become our gifts. We pray that the qualities of the Messiah take root in us and become our qualities so that we may become signs of God’s presence in the world.

(From: Confirmation and the Holy Spirit by Thomas Richstatter, Millennium Monthly, August 1998. Cincinnati: St. Anthony Messenger Press.)

5. Reflection: Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Families with Children

Note: For this activity there is an adult handout and a child handout.

Children: Using the Handout: *Gifts of the Holy Spirit*, review the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Ask the children to identify one or two gifts that they think they are especially blessed with. Make sure each child identifies at least one gift. The craft project will help the students remember the gifts of the Holy Spirit in their own lives.

Conclude by guiding the children in making a decorated dove with their gift on it (see Handout for example). You will need materials such as the cut-out of a white dove (see Handout), glue, black marking pens, and white tissue paper for each child. Provide each child with a cutout of a white dove and a sheet of colored construction paper for background. Have the children glue the dove in the middle of the paper.

Ask the children to select one of the gifts they have been given by the Holy Spirit. Below the dove, on the red construction paper, have them print "Gifted with the Spirit" in fine black marker and then under that line, print the gift they have received.

To add decorations to the dove, give each child several 1½" squares of white tissue paper. Demonstrate how to place the center of one tissue square around the end of a pencil and form it so the sides stand up. Tell the students to glue these formed tissue squares onto the dove. Covered with tissue, the dove takes on a three-dimensional look.

Parents: While the children complete their craft activity, ask the parents to complete the adult reflection questionnaire, *Gifts of the Holy Spirit*.

Adolescents and Adults

Using the Handout, *Gifts of the Spirit*, ask each person to identify which gifts of the Holy Spirit are strongest in them and which gifts they need to develop.

After the individual reflection, ask the participants to share their strengths and areas for growth with their small group. After the personal sharing, ask the participants to discuss how they live the gifts of the Holy Spirit and how they could live them more fully in their lives. Invite the participants to share several ways to live the gifts of the Holy Spirit with the entire group.

In addition to the traditional gifts of the Holy Spirit, each of us is blessed with gifts, talents, skills, knowledge, abilities, etc. Together as a group discuss the following questions:

- What gifts have I received that I can put to use at the service of God's kingdom?
- Am I reluctant to use my gifts or are there obstacles I need to overcome to use my gifts in service of God's kingdom?

Conclude by asking the participants to share what they have learned about the Holy Spirit, using questions such as,

- What did we learn about the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives as Christians?
- How can the Holy Spirit change and empower us as disciples?

- How can the Holy Spirit enable us to better live our faith in our everyday life?
- What is the importance of the Holy Spirit in our lives?
- Where do we encounter the Holy Spirit today?
- How can you grow in a deeper appreciation of the role of the Holy Spirit in the Christian life?

Optional Adolescent Activity: Holy Spirit Ads

Create advertisements to communicate the meaning of the Holy Spirit, and their importance in our lives as Christians. Participants can use a variety of advertising methods to capture the meaning of the Holy Spirit. Examples include a 30 second TV or radio ad, a song, an ad in a magazine, poster advertisement, a billboard, a calendar, magnets, clothing (T-shirt, caps), coffee mugs or glasses, buttons, canvas bags. Participants write the content for their advertisement (e.g., a script for a commercial or magazine ad, text for a cap or T-shirt), identify or create artwork, symbol, images, photos, etc. to accompany the content, and develop the final product.

Process

1. Explain the task: create advertisements to illustrate the meaning of the Holy Spirit and the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives as Christians.
2. Provide Bibles, pens, paper, art supplies, etc. for individuals and teams to use.
3. Give the participants illustrations of different types of advertising. Review the methods listed below and add ideas suggested by the group.
 - A 30 second TV or radio ad
 - Poster advertisement
 - A direct mail postcard, letter, or advertisement
 - Calendar
 - Writing pads
 - An ad in a magazine teenagers read
 - Magnet for the refrigerator
 - Clothing: T-shirt, Caps
 - Mugs or glasses
 - Buttons
 - Canvas Bags
4. Guide the participants in selecting their method. For each advertisement the individuals or teams may want to specify the target group (children, teenagers, adults, parents) or a group of people (families, the parish community, people who are not active in the parish— youth or adults). They will then focus their content and advertising on this age group.
5. Guide the groups in creating their projects.
6. Invite each group to present their ads.
7. Conclude by discussing questions such as,
 - What did we learn about the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives as Christians through the ads?
 - What is the importance of the Holy Spirit in our lives?
 - Where do we encounter the Holy Spirit today?
 - How can the Holy Spirit change and empower us?
 - How can the Holy Spirit enable us to better live our faith in our everyday life?
 - How can you grow in a deeper appreciation of the role of the Holy Spirit in the Christian life?

The Meaning of Confirmation

Conclude the In-Depth Learning Experience with a presentation-summary of the meaning of the Sacrament of Confirmation. Using the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, the outline from the video presentation, and the handout, *Celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation: Rite and Symbols* prepare a brief presentation to summarize the meaning of Confirmation. You can also use the recommended videos with your presentation.

Video Options

- *Sealed with God's Spirit – Sacrament of Confirmation* is best suited for adolescents through adults.
- *We Belong: Baptism and Confirmation* (St. Anthony Messenger Press) or *Who Is the Spirit?* (for younger children) (St. Anthony Messenger Press) are best suited for children.

Presentation Outline

From the video: *Sealed with God's Spirit – Sacrament of Confirmation* by Fr. Thomas Richstatter :

1. The sacraments of initiation can be compared to the process of preparing to dine with friends.
 - Before coming to the table at First Eucharist, we begin our initiation into the Body of Christ through the water bath of Baptism.
 - Just as second-century Romans rubbed their bodies with oil after a bath to moisturize their skin and dry off, we are anointed with the oil of Confirmation.
 - Clothed with the Holy Spirit, we approach the eucharistic table.
2. We don't find much written specifically about Confirmation in the early Church.
 - When early Christian authors wrote about Baptism, they implied the water bath and the anointing with oil just as we anticipating that "washing up" includes both washing and drying.
 - The anointing with oil (Confirmation) became separated from the water bath (Baptism) when priests began to baptize and preside at the Eucharist.
 - As original minister of all the sacraments, the bishop retained his connection to initiation by performing the anointing at a later date.
 - Only then did people begin to speak of a meaning for Confirmation separate from the meaning of Baptism
3. The meaning of Confirmation is still best understood in the context of Baptism-Confirmation-Eucharist.
 - In Baptism (1) we take off the old, sinful person and wash away Original Sin. In Confirmation (2) we are anointed with the oil of the Holy Spirit and filled with his sevenfold gifts. Finally (3) we are led to the Eucharistic banquet.
 - "Getting clean" and "washing off dirt" are two ways of looking at a single action.
 - Washing away Original Sin and being filled with the Holy Spirit are also two ways of looking at a single action.
 - Even when we celebrate them at different times in a person's faith journey, they are only really understood if we view them together.

4. It is the same Spirit that is celebrated in Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.
 - The Holy Spirit cleanses us from sin in Baptism.
 - The Holy Spirit anoints us with the seven characteristics of the Messiah in Confirmation.
 - The Holy Spirit leads us to the eucharistic table where, by eating and drinking the Body and Blood of Christ, we are taken up into his Body and become one with him and one another.

Jesus of Nazareth Video Segments

The following outline lists all of the scenes on video cassette two and a partial listing of video cassette three in the three-video set of *Jesus of Nazareth*.

Video Cassette Two

1. Matthew the tax collector arrives at Peter's house and is not welcomed
2. Jesus cures the paralytic man
3. At night, by the lake, Peter and his companions are arguing
4. Jesus and some disciples on the way to Matthew's house
5. Jesus is welcomed by Matthew and tells the parable of the prodigal son
6. Peter and Matthew are reconciled
7. In his palace Herod talks to John the Baptist in prison
8. Herod and Herodias talk
9. Jesus arrives on shore by boat and is greeted by the crowds
10. Matthew and Peter leave everything to follow Jesus
11. Jesus teaches the crowds
12. Jairus approaches Jesus asking for help
13. Jesus in the house of Jairus, raises his daughter from the dead
14. During the banquet that follows Jesus calls Thomas
15. At night while Jesus is sleeping Matthew and Peter converse
16. John in his dungeon shouts to the guests celebrating Herod's birthday
17. During the party Salome dances for Herod
18. Salome asks for John's head
19. John is murdered in the dungeon
20. Disciples, Judas, and some Zealots around John's tomb
21. Judas approaches Jesus to become his disciple
22. Children throw stones at Mary Magdalene's house
23. Mary Magdalene and her client talk
24. On the hillside crowds follow Jesus
25. The rich young man approaches Jesus
26. Afflicted people and Mary Magdalene follow Jesus to hear him
27. Jesus feeds five thousand with the miracle of loaves of bread and fishes
28. The Zealots and Judas discuss the work of Jesus
29. Simon the Zealot follows Jesus
30. In the house of Simon the Pharisee Jesus explains his teachings
31. Joseph of Arimathea converses with Jesus
32. Mary Magdalene rushes in
33. Mary at the feet of Jesus
34. Jesus forgives her sins
35. In the olive grove Jesus sends his disciples off to their mission
36. John visits Mary the mother of Jesus
37. Assault on Herod, the Zealots manage to wound him
38. The Zealots arrested and killed in front of Herod's palace
39. The disciples, returned from their mission, stand around the fire with Jesus
40. "Who do you think I am" – Peter's profession of faith

41. The Sermon on the Mount, the Beatitudes, the Our Father
42. Peter tries to stop Jesus from going to Jerusalem
43. The crowds journey to Jerusalem for the festival
44. A messenger from Martha and Mary comes to Jesus
45. Jesus arrives at Bethany and learns that Lazarus has died
46. Martha and Mary talk to Jesus who asks them to take him to the tomb
47. Jesus prays to the Father
48. Jesus raises Lazarus
49. Crowds ascend to the temple in Jerusalem
50. In the temple the pilgrims pray and bring in the lambs for sacrifice
51. Judas goes to talk to Zerah, the chief of the scribes of the temple
52. Jesus enters Jerusalem riding a donkey; the crowds are waving palms
53. The market and money changers
54. Jesus, outraged, overturns their stalls and chases them from the temple
55. Jesus is confronted by Zerah and the Pharisees
56. Judas intervenes and talks to Jesus and Zerah
57. Mary and the Rabbi are going to Jerusalem
58. Jesus is addressing the crowd in the temple, Nicodemus listens
59. While Jesus performs the rite of ablutions, he is approached by Barabbas
60. Barabbas does not understand the way of Jesus and leaves

Video Cassette Three

1. Jesus with the children in the temple and tells them a parable
2. Jesus addresses the conclusion of his parable to the Pharisees
3. Jesus is teaching the crowds in the temple (from Luke 6 and 11)
4. The woman caught in adultery is brought to the Pharisees in the temple
5. Jesus disperses her accusers and forgives her sin
6. A Roman Centurion approaches; Jesus instructs the crowds
7. Jesus cures the Centurion's servant
8. In the temple Jesus cures the blind man
9. The blind man is questioned by the Pharisees
10. The blind man believes in Jesus; the Pharisees are arguing
11. Jesus confronts the Pharisees and condemns their hypocrisies

Part 4

Sharing Learning Reflections and Home Application (20 minutes)

Advanced Preparation

- Determine what each group will bring back to the large group or to their small group to share as a result of their learning.
- Determine how each group will share their reports or projects so that they “teach” the other groups about the event and theme.

Home Kit

Develop a Sacrament of Confirmation Home Kit that *extends* and *expands* the learning that has taken place through the intergenerational learning program. It should *engage* families and individuals in living their faith at home through traditions and celebrations, rituals, symbols, prayers, service projects, learning activities, and enrichment activities. Include specific activities on the event that you have selected as a focus for the session. These additional activities can include learning activities about the event, Scripture readings, table rituals, prayers, and so on.

Use a variety of design formats for your activities, such as a prayer card, stand-up card, poster, placemat, newsletter, booklet, magnet, bookmark, and artwork.

Included with this session are the following home activities:

- Ritual Moments: Confirmation
- Meal Ritual: Fruits of the Spirit
- Table Ritual: Gifts of the Spirit
- Scripture Reflections on Confirmation

Be sure to include Confirmation symbols in the Home Kit:

- A small (plastic) bottle of oil (olive oil or vegetable oil or baby oil) to take home with them – to remind them of their anointing.
- A symbol of the Holy Spirit in artwork, prayer card, etc.
- A small cross to take home with them – to remind them of their commitment to be a witness to their faith in Jesus Christ.

1. Whole Group Sharing and Reflection

The whole group sharing experience provides an opportunity for each age group to share something they have learned with the entire group. If the session has been conducted in intergenerational groups ask participants to remain with their group. If the session was conducted in the age group format, ask people to rejoin their intergenerational groups from the All Ages Learning Experience OR ask family members to rejoin their own family and individual

adolescent and adult participants to stay with their age groups from the In-Depth Learning Experience.

First, ask the participants to share what they learned in a small group setting or by inviting participants or groups, representing families, teens, and adults, to share projects or reflections with the entire.

[spoken text] Second, present the following information using the words below or your own words:

Think of everything we have done in this session to learn about the Sacrament of Confirmation through symbols – laying on of hands, anointing with oil, and gifts of the Holy Spirit. Take a few minutes to reflect on what you have learned in this session:

- What is one thing you learned about the Sacrament of Confirmation that you did not know before?
- What do you think it means to be confirmed? Complete the sentence, “Being confirmed means...”
- What do you think it means to live the Sacrament of Confirmation. Living the Sacrament of Confirmation means...

Review the Home Kit for the event containing prayers, rituals, service projects, family enrichment, and learning activities. Guide everyone in developing an individual or family action plan for living at home using the Home Kit, and planning for participation in the sacrament.

2. Reflection—Application Strategies

Prepare strategies and activities to guide individuals and families in *reflecting* on the meaning of their learning and their participation in the Church event and in *applying* their learning to daily living as a Catholic. The goal is to help people apply the beliefs and practices to their daily life, and report or “publish” their learning with others in the parish community.

Reflection and application activities and strategies can be included with the Home Kit. You can also include a time for feedback in your next intergenerational learning program

There are a variety of formats for reflection – application activities. Reflection tools include unfinished sentences, reflection questions, learning journals, and a structured reflection activities. Application tools include action plans, practice plans, “to do” lists, and resolutions.

Art and media strategies can also be used to express reflection and application. Consider activities such as a bumper stickers, picture collages, “recipe for living” cards, posters, photos, and projects that create and bring back to Sunday Mass or the next intergenerational learning program.

Example: Reflection on Participating in the Sacrament of Confirmation

What did you see at the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation?

- Think of the symbols and gestures you saw at the celebration: laying on of hands, anointing with oil, renewing our baptismal vows. What did the symbols and gestures mean to you as you experienced the celebration of Confirmation?

What did you hear at the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation?

- Think of the songs you sang. Was there a particular song that connected with the celebration of Confirmation. What was its message?
- Think of the Scripture readings in the celebration of Confirmation. What was their message? What is God and the Church saying to you and the community about the Sacrament of Confirmation?

How did the community pray at the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation?

- Think of the prayer texts in the celebration of Confirmation. What and who are we praying for? What are the prayer texts teaching us about the Sacrament of Confirmation?

Additional Activities

Application: Discovering the Holy Spirit in My Life

Provide the participants with this reflection and application activity. Consider making a handout or a prayer card for the participants.

Discovering the Holy Spirit in My Life

- Take a few moments to identify where you discover or encounter the Holy Spirit in your daily life.
 - reading Scripture
 - praying
 - alone with God
 - learning more about my faith
 - exploring new ways to live my faith
 - worshipping at Sunday Mass
 - serving those in need
 - nature/creation
 - my relationships with friends
 - my relationships with family
 - being close to the pain of hurting people
 - praying with friends
 - creating something
 - at work
 - times of forgiveness and reconciliation
 - having fun
 - other: _____
- How can you be more open to discovering the Spirit's work in your life.
- How can you be more open to discerning the signs of the Spirit at work in the world and in the Church?

Further Growth: Scripture

Provide the participants with Scripture readings that allow them to explore the importance of the Holy Spirit. Consider making a handout or a prayer card for the participants.

Find a quiet place this week to pray, read the following Scripture passages on the Holy Spirit, and reflect on role of the Holy Spirit in your life.

Ezekiel 37:1-14
Joel 3:1-5
Psalm 104
John 1:29-34

John 14:15-31
John 20:19-31
Acts 2:1-17
Acts 10:25-26, 34-49

Romans 8:14-27
1Corinthians 12
Galatians 5:16-26

Part 5

Closing Prayer Service (10 minutes)

Close in prayer and song. Use one or more of the following prayers and song selections.

1. Traditional

*Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful;
And kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created;
And you shall renew the face of the earth. Amen.*

2. From the Rite of Confirmation

*Lord, fulfill the promise given by your Son
and send the Holy Spirit
to enlighten our minds and lead us to all truth.
Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

3. From the Rite of Confirmation

*God our Father,
complete the work you have begun
and keep the gifts of the your Holy Spirit
active in the hearts of your people.
Make them ready to live his gospel
and easy to do his will.
May they never be ashamed
to proclaim to all the world Christ crucified
living and reigning for ever and ever. Amen.*

4. From the Rite of Confirmation

*The Holy Spirit
came down upon the disciples
and set their hearts on fire with love:
may he bless you,
keep you one in faith and love
and bring you to the joy of God's kingdom.*

5. From the Rite of Confirmation

*Lord,
fulfill your promise.
Send your Holy Spirit
to make us witnesses before the world
to the good news proclaimed by Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

6. Traditional Pentecost Sequence (from the Lectionary)

Come, Holy Spirit, and from heaven direct on man the rays of your light. Come, Father of the poor; come, giver of God's gifts; come, light of men's hearts.

Kindly Paraclete, in your gracious visits to man's soul, you bring relief and consolation. If it is weary with toil, you bring it ease; in the heart of temptation, your grace cools it; if sorrowful, your words console it.

Light most blessed, shine on the hearts of your faithful – even into their darkest corners; for without your aid man can do nothing good, and everything is sinful.

Wash clean the sinful soul, rain down your grace on the parched soul and heal the injured soul. Soften the hard heart, cherish and warm the ice-cold heart, and give direction to the wayward.

*Give your seven holy gifts to your faithful, for their trust is in you. Give them reward for their virtuous acts; give them a death that ensures salvation; give them unending bliss. Amen.
Alleluia.*

7. Contemporary Pentecost Sequence (Joyce Rupp)

*Come, Spirit who is our Light.
Shine among the shadows within.
Warm and transform our hearts.*

*Come, Spirit who makes a home in us.
Draw us to the treasures of your dwelling.
Reveal to us the inner journey of love.*

*Come, Spirit, Comforter and Consoler.
Heal the wounded. Soothe the anxious.
Be consolation for all who grieve and ache.*

*Come, Spirit who energizes our being.
Keep us from the tangles of toil and travail.
Lead us to moments of prayer and play.*

*Come, Spirit, consuming Fire of Love.
Fill us with enthusiasm for your vision.
May the desire for truth be vibrant within us.*

*Come, Spirit, joy of our souls.
Dance amid life's hills and valleys,
Encircle us with the delights of your dance.*

*Come, Spirit of wisdom and insight.
Draw us into your goodness and light.
Direct our growth and guide our ways.*

*Come, Spirit, strength of wounded ones.
Be warmth in hearts of those grown cold.*

Empower the powerless. Rekindle the weary.

*Come, Spirit, source of our Peace.
Deepen in us the action of peacemakers.
Heal the divisions that ravage the earth.*

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8. Responsorial: The Energies of the Spirit of God (Joyce Rupp)

When we come face to face with the challenge of self-giving, when we are asked to go the extra mile, to take the risk of reaching out to another, to offer forgiveness to the heart that rejects us...

Response: Spirit of God, fill us with the energy of your love.

When our world seems bleak, when we walk with sadness written on our soul, when we have days in which everything goes wrong...

Response: Spirit of God, stir the energy of your joy within us.

When anxiety and concern take over our spirit, when restlessness or boredom holds sway over us, when our world cries out in distress and turmoil...

Response: Spirit of God, deepen in us the energy of your peace.

On those days when we hurry too much, during those times when our anger flares because our agendas aren't met, when we stop giving people our understanding and acceptance...

Response: Spirit of God, draw us toward the energy of your patience.

When someone needs a simple gesture of thoughtfulness, when a look of love is all another asks from us, when a good word could take the sting out of the gossip of foes...

Response: Spirit of God, create in us the energy of your kindness.

As we face the shadow of our inner world or peer into the darkness of our outer world, as we struggle to believe in our own gifts and blessings...

Response: Spirit of God, strengthen in us the energy of your goodness.

In those difficult times when fear threatens to drown our trust in you, during those experiences of growth when we are tempted to doubt all the ways we have known you...

Response: Spirit of God, renew in us the energy of trusting in you.

When harshness or abruptness dominates our moods, when we feel challenged by the power of another, when we use the things of this good earth.

Response: Spirit of God, bless us with the energy of your gentleness.

As we walk on the edges of life and death, as we struggle with the disciplines of spiritual growth, as we yearn to be faithful amid the many changes of inner and outer growth...

Response: Spirit of God, move us with the energy of your guidance.

Closing Prayer

Spirit of God, you are the stirring in our hearts. You urge us to get going. You prompt us to follow. You encourage us not to give up. You call us to open our minds and our hearts to receive your energizing, transforming radiance. Make us receptive so that we will follow your loving movement within our lives. We trust in your powerful presence within us. Amen.

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Music Sources

Here are several songs that focus on Confirmation themes and the Holy Spirit.

- “Holy Spirit” by Ken Canedo (OCP)
- “The Lord Sends His Gifts” by Reginald Butler
- “Holy Spirit, Fall Down on Me” by Reginald Butler
- “Send Out Your Spirit” by Jesse Manibusan (OCP)
- “Spirit Blowing Through Creation” by Marty Haugen (GIA)
- “Send Down the Fire” by Marty Haugen (GIA)
- “We Walk by Faith” by Marty Haugen (GIA)
- “Shepherd Me, O God” by Marty Haugen (GIA)
- “Send Us Your Spirit” by David Haas (GIA)
- “Your Words Are Spirit and Life” by Bernadette Farrell (OCP)
- “Christ Be Our Light” by Bernadette Farrell (OCP)
- “I Will Choose Christ” by Tom Booth (OCP)
- “One Spirit, One Church” by Kevin Kell (OCP)
- “Send Our Your Spirit” by Jesse Manibusan (OCP)
- “Envia Tu Espiritu” by Bob Hurd (OCP)
- “There is a Light” by Cyprian Consiglio (OCP)
- “The Spirit of God” by Lucien Deiss (World Library Publications)
- “O Holy Spirit, by Whose Breath” (Traditional)

Check the following sources for songs on Confirmation:

- *Singing Our Faith – A Hymnal for Young Catholics* (Chicago: GIA Publications, 2001) [Hymnal, Leader’s/Catechist’s Manual, 11 CD set]
- *Walking by Faith – Music and Ritual Prayer for Children*. David Haas and Robert W. Piercy. (Chicago, GIA Publications, 1997.) [CD]
- *Spirit and Song – A Seeker’s Guide for Liturgy and Prayer*. (Portland: OCP Publications, 1999.) [Hymnal and 10 CD set]
- *Gather – Comprehensive*. (Chicago: GIA, 1994)