



Archdiocese of Philadelphia  
Office of the Archbishop  
222 North 17th Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

May 29, 2018

Dear Brother Priests,

This past January I announced the decision to move the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia from the 4th, 5th or 6th grade to 7th and/or 8th grades effective September 2018. One of the primary reasons for this decision was to provide a more in-depth and systematic sacramental preparation for our young people through our Archdiocesan schools and religious education programs.

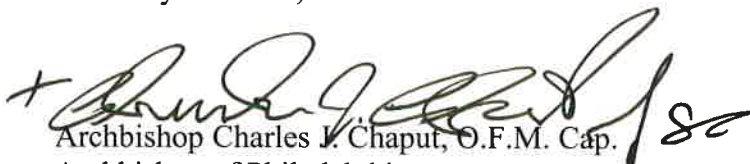
Attached to this letter is a framework for such preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation developed by the Office for Divine Worship and the Office for Catechetical Formation. The framework specifically outlines the doctrinal elements to be included in the sacramental preparation of those to be confirmed. Please give this framework to your school principal and/or director of religious education as it will guide their choices for Confirmation materials and resources.

The review questions for the Sacrament of Confirmation are presently being revised and will be sent to the principals and directors of religious education in the beginning of the new academic year.

I am grateful to you for your support and encouragement for this new archdiocesan standard for the grades for Confirmation and for your collaboration with all those involved in your parish with the preparation of school age candidates for the Sacrament.

May God give you peace!

Sincerely in Christ,

  
Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.  
Archbishop of Philadelphia

- I. Trinity: Central mystery of the faith (CCC, no. 234)
  - A. One God in Three Divine Person: Father, Son and Holy Spirit (CCC. Nos. 238-240)
  - B. First Person of the Trinity: God, the Father (CCC., 199-227)
    - 1. Humankind's desire for God (CCC, nos. 27-30)
    - 2. God's loving plan for salvation (CCC, nos. 51-64)
  - C. Second Person of the Trinity: God the Son (CCC, nos. 430-455)
    - 1. Jesus means God saves (CCC, no. 430)
    - 2. Jesus's relationship with the Father (CCC, nos. 583, 2779-2785)
    - 3. The New Law: Fulfillment of the Old Testament (CCC, nos. 1965-1972)
    - 4. Paschal Mystery (CCC, nos. 1084-1090; 1113-1130)
    - 5. Call to Discipleship (CCC, nos. 425-429)
      - a. Beatitudes (CCC, nos. 1716-1724)
      - b. Works of Mercy (CCC, nos. 2443-2449)
      - c. Great Commission (CCC, no. 2)
      - d. Promise of the Holy Spirit (CCC, no. 1287)
  - D. Third Person of the Holy Trinity, the Holy Spirit (CCC, nos. 687-741)
    - 1. Consubstantial with the Father and Son (CCC, no. 689)
    - 2. Name (CCC, no. 691)- Holy Spirit
    - 3. Titles (CCC, nos. 692-693)
    - 4. Symbols of the Holy Spirit (CCC, nos. 694-701)
- II. The Church: (CCC, nos. 1748-
  - A. Established by Jesus Christ (CCC, no. 748)
  - B. Descent of the Holy Spirit (CCC, no. 1287)
    - 1. Feast of Pentecost
    - 2. Birth of Church
  - C. Body of Christ (CCC, nos. 787-796)
  - D. Temples of the Holy Spirit (CCC, nos. 797-801)
  - E. Marks of the Church (CCC, nos. 811-855)
  - F. Apostles Creed (CCC, Part I, Profession of Faith, Credo)
  - G. Communion of Saints (CCC, nos. 946-959)
    - 1. Three States: Church on earth or militant, Church being purified or suffering, and Church in heaven or triumphant. (CCC, no. 954)
  - H. Seven Sacraments of the Church (CCC, no. 1210-1211)
  - I. Grace: Participation in the Trinitarian life (CCC, nos. 987-2005)
  - J. Sin: Definition (CCC, nos. 1854-1869)
  - K. Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist (CCC, no.1212)
  - L. Virtues
    - 1. Theological: Faith, Hope and Charity (CCC, nos. 1812-1829)
    - 2. Cardinal: Justice, Prudence, Fortitude and Temperance (CCC, nos. 11804-1811)
  - M. Four Last Things: Death, Judgement, Heaven, Hell (CCC, nos. 1020-1050)
  - N. Precepts of the Church (CCC, nos. 2041-2043)

- III. Introduction to the Sacrament of Confirmation (CCC, no.1285)
  - A. Old Testament Foreshadowing
    - 1. Spirit of God (CCC, nos. 707-716)
    - 2. Anointing (CCC, no. 1293)
    - 3. Church (CCC, nos.760-762)
  - B. Relationship to Baptism (CCC, no. 1285)
  - C. Rite of Confirmation (CCC, nos. 1293-1301; cf. Order of Confirmation- 2016 revision)
    - 1. Minister: the Bishop is the ordinary minister
    - 2. Presentation of Candidates
    - 3. Renewal of Baptismal Promises
    - 4. Laying of Hands
    - 5. Matter: Anointing with sacred chrism on forehead (cf. CCC, nos. 1289, 1291)
      - a. Role of the Sponsor (cf. Code of Canon Law, 892-893)
      - b. Choosing of a Confirmation name
      - c. Royal Priesthood (CCC, nos.783-786)
    - 6. Form: "Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit."
    - 7. Sign of Peace
  - D. Effects
    - 1. Completes and deepens the grace of Baptism (CCC., nos. 1302-1305)
    - 2. Unites one more fully to Christ (CCC., nos. 1302-1305)
    - 3. Consecrated to the Church (CCC., nos. 1302-1305)
    - 4. Indelible mark or seal of the Holy Spirit (cf. CCC, no. 1295)
    - 5. Full outpouring of the Holy Spirit which gives a special strength to witness to and defend the faith
      - a. Gifts of the Holy Spirit (CCC, no. 1831)
      - b. Fruits of the Holy Spirit(CCC, no. 1832)
- IV. Discipleship: the Joy of being a witness to the life of Christ as a fully initiated Catholic Christian! (CCC, nos. 1285, 1294-1296)

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM CCC –suggest that this information be merged into the questions.**

1. (I: D:3) Titles of the Holy Spirit: Paraclete, Advocate, Spirit of Truth (CCC, nos. 692-693)
2. (I:D:4) Symbols of the Holy Spirit: Holy Spirit, water, anointing, fire, cloud and light, seal, hand, finger, dove (CCC, nos. 694-701)
3. (III:D, 5a) Gifts of the Holy Spirit: Gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, fear of the Lord (CCC, no. 1831)
4. (III: D, 6) Fruits of the Holy Spirit:
  - a. charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, chastity. (CCC, no. 1832)
  - b. Combat deadly sins of pride, anger, envy, lust, greed, sloth and gluttony (CCC, no. 1866)

Capital Sin	pride	anger	envy	lust	greed	sloth	gluttony
Fruit of the Holy Spirit	charity	patience	kindness	chastity	generosity	joy	Self-control