THE SACRAMENTS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH:

SEVEN SACRED ENCOUNTERS WITH JESUS CHRIST

SESSION III: PARTICIPANT HANDOUT

Chapter I: Catechesis or religious education for most elementary-age children is sacramental preparation which culminates with the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation. It is a preparation for a life of discipleship to proclaim Jesus Christ to others. Therefore, all "grades" should prepare children to become disciples. Highlight a lesson within your curriculum that prepares your students for a life of Christian discipleship.

Chapter II: Explain the following: In the laying of the hands in Confirmation, the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit are infused in our hearts. Although there is only one Spirit, these gifts work differently in each person and become their personal charism. How can you help your students identify their charism; how can their charism help them to navigate the difficult moments of life?

Chapter III: The age of Confirmation in the US varies from the age of reason (around 7years old) to 18 years old. A few US dioceses have returned to the practice of the restored order, that is, reception of Confirmation during the same Mass of a child's First Holy Communion. Other dioceses, confirm in high school. The Archdiocese of Philadelphia confirms in 7th or 8th grade. From your observations as a teacher of the faith, what do you think is the ideal age for a child to be prepared for and receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Explain.

Chapter IV: Explain Father Banecker's statement: Confirmation is not a Catholic Bar-mitzvah!

Chapter V: Father Banecker states that a sacrament is freely given from God and cannot be earned. Name one or two practices for Confirmation preparation that are meant to "till the soil of their faith" of the student, not give the impression that he/she is "earning" the sacrament.

Thank you for your participation in this course.

Reminder: An updated electronic course record will be emailed to all participants who attended and participated in all three sessions.