

CHURCH OF ST. MARY'S

MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES: CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

(To be used by candidates, teachers, parents, and priests)

Although you are about to begin a series of formal sessions prerequisite for the reception of Confirmation, it must be emphasized that preparation for this sacrament is a lifelong process beginning with birth, taking place in the home with communication of Christian values and beliefs, continuing throughout the course of formal religious education. The Confirmation Program at St. Mary's is offered in sixth, seventh and eighth grades, because these are years when most young people show a readiness to reflect on their previous learning's and begin to act on their faith and its implications.

The learning's outlined on the following pages indicate the most fundamental religious understandings relating to Confirmation in terms of goals, achievements, or behaviors which can be observed, measured, and evaluated by reasonably objective standards. There are three categories which can be easily identified: the affective (involving emotions, values, and attitudes), the cognitive (representing the acquisition of knowledge and understandings), and the behavioral (expressed in specific actions).

Note: Teachers and parents may wish to modify some of these objectives or develop new ones at their own discretion or with the help of the Religious Education Director.

I. AFFECTIVE LEARNING:

- a. An affirmative response when asked if the candidate wishes to be Confirmed.
- b. An expressly Christian motive for participation as indicated by statements such as "I wish to be closer to God" or "I want to become a more active part of the Church."
- c. An ability to express personal values through value exercises.
- d. An awareness of choices, an ability to make decisions, and take responsibility as may be demonstrated quite simply in actions such as completing homework assignments, keeping track of scheduled events, and remembering to bring texts/materials to class.
- e. An ability to work with a group cooperatively (as in service projects or liturgy planning or class work).
- f. Composition of a creed expressing personal beliefs.

2. COGNITIVE LEARNING:

- a. Background knowledge of prayers and elements of the Church: Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Act of Contrition, a creed (Apostles' Creed or Nicene Creed), The Seven Sacraments, The Ten Commandments, The Law of Love, Beatitudes of Matthew, The Precepts of the Church (attested by parents).
- b. Knowledge of terminology: Chrism, Confirmation, Sacrament, Bishop, Sponsor, Miter, Crosier, Pectoral Cross.

- c. Knowledge of:
 - The Trinity and Jesus' life.
 - 3 symbols for the Holy Spirit and their meaning:
Flame, Dove, Wind.
 - 3 ways the Holy Spirit has been manifested in the past
(Sacred Scripture).
 - 7 gifts of the Holy spirit as they apply to us today.
 - 2 basic understandings of Confirmation:
initiation and maturing faith leading to active service.
 - 3 symbolic gestures of the rite:
Chrismation, Laying on of Hands, Sign of Peace.
- d. Familiarity with the story of the first Pentecost (Acts 2:1-13).
- e. Knowledge of:
 - 1) the life of your patron saint.
 - 2) Christian social teachings (at least in an introductory fashion).
- f. Ability to list 3 things of value in the Roman Catholic Church
and explain the reasons for the choice.
- g. Understanding of the distinctive characteristics of the Roman Catholic Church,
e.g. Hierarchical structure, Sacramental System, Doctrines, Works.
- h. Understanding of and identification with adult Roman Catholicism indicated by
 - 1) An awareness of the Roman Catholic Church's position on
contemporary social issues.
 - 2) A willingness to give positive witness to the mission of the Church.
 - 3) An understanding of the composition and organization of
our local parish community.
 - 4) A willingness to participate in the life of St. Mary's parish,
e.g. lector, server, helper, teacher's aide.

3. BEHAVIORAL LEARNING:
GENERAL RELIGIOUS PRACTICES:

- a. A regular pattern of prayer (spontaneous and formal).
- b. Regular attendance in our religious education program for the
year of Confirmation and two years prior.
- c. Regular attendance at Church.
- d. Taking part in a parish Reconciliation Service.