

CONFIRMATION LEARNING OUTCOMES

2 Year Program

Introduction

Preparation for the reception of Confirmation requires a process that embraces evangelization and catechesis. In the spirit of the New Evangelization, Confirmation preparation should be the context in which a life of discipleship is developed and a missionary spirit encouraged. Similarly, the spirit of catechesis should provide the activities that promote, enhance, and challenge the candidate's journey to a mature faith.

Based on this understanding, these Learning Outcomes were created to be a resource for parish planning. Having these outcomes during the planning process will help catechetical leaders develop and implement a basic curriculum for Confirmation and guide their decision making process for how to implement the variety of published programs that are currently available for preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation.

In addition, they were designed to assist catechists in lesson planning so that they are able to form Confirmation candidates to be disciples of Jesus Christ and faithful participants in the Catholic Church. Also, they were constructed to provide the framework for evangelization and catechesis that Jesus used to form his disciples through encounter, accompaniment, community, and sending.

These Learning Outcomes are meant to be adaptable in order to meet the needs of the parish community. Each semester should focus on building a foundation for the comprehensive experience of God's love, understanding of the doctrines and traditions of the Catholic Church, and participation in the life of faith.

While the Catholic Church does not require a specific length of time for sacramental preparation, over the years the Rockford Diocese has come to adopt two years as the norm for preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation. This time frame takes into consideration what we now know about the way students learn, the types of materials available for catechists to use, and especially the sharp drop off in enrollment after First Communion when celebrated in 2nd grade, with the children returning for religious instruction and preparation in 7th grade.

Consequently, a two-year preparation program is considered ideal for Confirmation, but is not mandatory. This is a decision catechetical leader's make with their pastors. If it is decided to have a one-year preparation program, it is important to go through the curriculum to insure these Learning Outcomes are achieved within that time.

Finally, these Learning Outcomes were developed with the freedom to select materials that best fit the local religious education program and parish budget. The materials may be DVD-based, such as Chosen and Decision Point, or a textbook selection from the Bishops Conformity List. When selecting materials keep these outcomes in mind because they are based on a formative process that promotes:

1. Knowledge of the faith.
2. Knowledge of the meaning of the Liturgy and the Sacraments.
3. Moral formation in Jesus Christ.
4. How to pray with Christ.
5. Living in community and actively participating in the life and mission of the Church.
6. A missionary spirit that prepares the candidates to be present as Christians in society.