

Take Time To Reflect And Act

Does your parish community inform parents that they are responsible for their children's spiritual growth and development? Do parents, guardians, godparents, and sponsors know they are responsible? Does your parish have a plan in place to encourage and teach parents, guardians, godparents, and sponsors how to nurture their own spiritual growth and development so that they can fulfill their responsibilities to do the same for their children? If not, what initiatives can you design to educate parents about their responsibilities? How can your parish meet the spiritual needs of families? What initiatives can you propose to bring to your pastor and pastoral team?

Do your families understand their role in preparing their children for heaven? How might you compare their responsibility to prepare their children for life with their responsibility to prepare them for heaven? What could you do to help families understand that they are responsible for preparing their children for heaven?

Why is it important to enhance the spiritual growth and development of parents and sponsors as part of the candidate's preparation for Confirmation? If you knew that you could use sacramental preparation to intentionally nurture the spiritual growth of your parishioners would you do it? Are you willing to make parent/sponsor retreats in preparation for Confirmation mandatory? Why or why not?

If you are willing to make parent/sponsor preparation for Confirmation mandatory, what might be the benefits for them? What are the benefits for the Candidates? What are the benefits for the entire parish community? What do you need in order to implement a Candidate/Adult Confirmation Retreat?

Preparing Children for Heaven is not optional. It is mandatory!

Confirmation: Is It A Sacrament of Sanctification or a Sacrament of Exit from the Catholic Church?

We all would agree that Confirmation must not be a sacrament of exit from the Church for our children and their parents. It must become known as the sacrament of sanctification — a sacrament of opportunity for parents to confirm Jesus as their Lord and Savior and to teach, model for, and encourage their children to do the same. Confirmation must also become known as the sacrament of opportunity for parishes to assess how well they have done in ensuring that both parents and their children come to know Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior. Confirmation must become known as the sacrament of opportunity for parishes to assess how well they have taught, mentored, and coached parents and sponsors to live in the Spirit and operate in the gifts and charisms of the Holy Spirit.

It is critical for parents, sponsors, and children to learn how to pray together, hear God's voice for their lives, praise and worship God with their whole being, seek to know God's will and His plan for their lives through the graces that flow from reading Scripture, receiving the Sacraments, and following the teachings of the Christ and His Church. This can only be done through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Are you aware that there are retreat teams in the diocese who are experienced and gifted in working with children, youth, and adults? Are you aware the Diocese of Toledo, Ministry to Catholic Charismatic Renewal is eager to consult with you and provide you with realistic initiatives, short and long-range plans, as well as offer you coaching, mentoring, and retreat teams to meet the needs of your parish? If we can be of help to you, call us today at 419-691-6686.



Parish Renewal Mission & Retreat Series

Confirmation

The Sacrament of Sanctification



Preparing Adults and Candidates for Confirmation

Parish Outreach Ministries

Renée A. Marazon, Coordinator
29336 Belmont Lake Rd.
Perrysburg, OH 43551
419-343-1604
renee@marazon.com

Sponsored by the Diocese of Toledo
Ministry to Catholic Charismatic Renewal
419-691-6686

© 2006, MAPS for life

The Retreat Team

The Retreat Team consists of two sub-teams: The Youth Team and The Adult Team. Both teams weave together teachings, Scripture, storytelling, faith sharing, small group discussion, personal and community prayer, and worship, and praise with emphasis on the healing power of Jesus in the Eucharist. All of these come together with a sufficient dose of humor mixed with good old-fashioned common sense! The Youth Team also integrates creative self-expression to help candidates express their experiences of God's love and mercy. The Confirmation Retreat can be presented in an overnight weekend setting, a single day, two consecutive days, or an after-school-evening format. The minimum time required for the retreat is five hours. Each retreat is customized to meet the needs of your parish.



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is critical to preparation for Confirmation.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is an integral part of the Confirmation Retreat.

Sample Retreat Schedule and Topics

	Youth Track	Adult Track
Talk 1	Where's God in my life? The Father's Love: The God Image Healing Prayer Small group Discussion with Individual Prayer Arts and Crafts/Construction/Journaling My Calendar—Where Do I want God to be in my life now?	The Road Less Disciplined: Guidance and Discipline Who is discipling you? What is Confirmation? What does it mean to be a sponsor? How can I do this? Healing Prayer Small group Discussion with Individual Prayer
Talk 2	The Fall Jesus: Salvation and Restoration The Circle of Self-Knowledge: How's life? The Empty Cup—Fill My Cup Healing Prayer Small group Discussion with Individual Prayer	The Father's Love—Creation and Desolation Jesus—Salvation and Restoration The Circle of Self-Knowledge: How's life? Healing Prayer Small group Discussion with Individual Prayer
Talk 3	The Promise: New Life in the Spirit The Power: For me, my family, friends, and the Church Healing Prayer Small group Discussion with Individual Prayer	The Promise: New Life in the Spirit The Power: For Me, My Family, the Church and the community. Healing Prayer Small group Discussion with Individual Prayer
Talk 4	The Surrender: Receiving God's Gift The Dipstick Healing Prayer Small group Discussion with Individual Prayer	The Surrender: Receiving God's Gift The Dipstick Healing Prayer Small group Discussion with Individual Prayer
Talk 5	Go, Proclaim, Heal Where do I go? What do I say? How do I heal? My Family, the Church, & the World Healing Prayer Small group Discussion with Individual Prayer	Go, Proclaim, Heal Where do I go? What do I say? How do I heal? My Family, the Church, & the World Healing Prayer Small group Discussion with Individual Prayer
Closing	Let's Pray: The Simple Blessing Prayer	Let's Pray: The Simple Blessing Prayer
Closing	General Session (Adults and Candidates) The Commitment: Sponsors and Parents Speak their commitment to their Candidates and pray with them privately. Candidates speak their commitment to their sponsors and pray with them privately. The Care Letter:	

The Confirmation Commitment Prayer

I will love my candidate unconditionally; be an example of how to draw closer to God by receiving the Sacraments regularly and by being faithful to prayer; encourage my candidate to live a Christian life after Confirmation; give my candidate advice as to how to grow in holiness; guide my candidate to learn about his/her faith, Scripture, and the teachings of the Church; share the joys and the struggles of my own faith journey with my candidate; help my candidate discern his/her gifts and find a way to use them in a specific parish ministry; support my candidate spiritually and emotionally should he/she turn away from God; pray "for" my candidate and pray "with" my candidate; and have on-going contact with my candidate throughout his/her life.