

# CONFIRMATION INTERVIEW PREP GUIDE

## Candidate Self-Evaluation

*"Confirmation brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace." This includes "a deeper level of intimacy with God the Father; closer union with Jesus; increase of the gifts of the Holy Spirit; a more perfect bond with the Church; and special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly and never be ashamed of the Cross"*

*~ Catechism of the Catholic Church #1303.*

*The whole of your Confirmation preparation has been intended to give you the **knowledge** and **experiences** to help you better understand and receive the graces of the Sacrament of Confirmation.*

## Before the interview...

- If you have unfinished commitments don't panic, but, be prepared to discuss...
  - The **"WHY"** (the purpose of the service or spiritual reflection commitment, etc.).
  - Your plan to complete the commitment before the end of April.
- Please check that you registered with the name **EXACTLY** as you wish it to appear on your official certificate/Name tag.
- Confirmation Name – The interview will be your last chance choose a Confirmation Name if you have not already done so.

In the *Confirmation Interview*, which you are about to experience, you will be asked to discuss a subject on which you are uniquely expert: **you!** This is your chance to talk about your gifts, experiences and how God is working in your life. The interview will last for approximately 25 minutes and you will be asked questions in three areas of preparation...

- I. **"Theological" Formation** – What you've learned about the Catholic faith, worship, prayer, etc.
- II. **Gifts & Discipleship** – How you are gifted by God/responsibility to serve God & community.
- III. **Belief about God** – Articulate your relationship with God. Discuss your plan to grow spiritually and remain connected to the Body of Christ beyond Confirmation.

The members of the parish who will be interviewing you are very interested to hear about your "faith story", formation experiences, and spiritual gifts. Please be ready to participate in this conversation of faith by reflecting on your spiritual growth and experiences over the last couple of years.

The interview is not a pass/fail test for Confirmation. The purpose of this is experience is to hear – in your own words, how God is working in your life, and your desire to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

This Self-Reflection Guide is offered to help prepare you for this conversation of faith. While there is no guarantee that any of the following questions will be used as listed, you are welcome to use these sample questions and/or make notes to bring with you to the interview.

## I - Faith/Sacramental Formation Process

These questions center on the four essential components of your formation:

- **Faith Formation** (*attending OneWith/Catholic School and Sacramental Prep sessions*)
- **Spiritual Reflection** (*Retreats or “Virtual” Reflections with your Sponsor*)
- **Mentorship** (*interactions with your Sponsor, Discipleship Group Leader, Parish, etc.*)

### Formation Sample Questions:

- What was the most meaningful part of your Faith Formation experience?
- **OneWith** uses a “Teaching Mass format to help you learn about how/why Catholics worship the way we do... Name one or two specific things that you learned/found interesting about Catholic Mass?
- Share one thing that you learned/found interesting during your formation about prayer, the bible, sacraments, etc?
- Thinking about the experiences you just described, how have they helped you grow closer to God?
- Many young people fall away from their faith after Confirmation – why do you think that is? How do you plan to continue to seek understanding/knowledge of God, scripture, prayer, Church teaching, etc. in the future?

### Spiritual Reflection Sample Questions:

- Before COVID, what retreat experiences did you participate in?
- You were also asked to engage in a spiritual Reflection with your Sponsor (Or parent)...
- Describe that experience (*what did you do? What was your “take-away”, etc.*)
- Why do you think the bishops want every confirmation candidate to participate in practices of spiritual reflection?
- How did your spiritual reflection experiences grow your awareness of – *and connection to* – God?
- Do you see yourself participating in faith retreats in the future? Why/why not?

### Mentorship Sample Questions:

*Finding positive Christian role-models is critical for spiritual maturity. You will be asked questions about the key spiritual mentors in your life...*

- Who is your sponsor? Why did you choose them?
- What has the Candidate/Sponsor experience been like for you?
- Who is your **OneWith** Discipleship Group Leader? How has that relationship supported your spiritual growth?
- What role have spiritual mentors played in your life (*parents/grandparents/sponsor/group leader/priest, etc.*)?
- What value do you see in connecting with people/communities who can provide emotional/spiritual support (now and in the future)?

## II – Gifts & Discipleship Formation Process

One of the most important aspects of the Confirmation process is to develop an understanding of our present-and-ongoing responsibilities as Christians/Catholics through acts of service.

This includes three key concepts about Christianity (*and are related to Confirmation only tangentially*)...

- 1) For candidates to recognize that their gifts, talents, interests (as well as their health, wealth and time), are all gifts from God.
- 2) These gifts are unique to each individual and are God-given for a two-fold purpose.
  - a. To help us personally connect with God (personal relationship w/God).
  - b. To help us love our “neighbor” by easing the suffering, pain and loneliness in the world.
- 3) Service is not a “requirement for Confirmation” ... it is a requirement of the Christian life! It is the responsibility of every Christian to use our God-given gifts to participate in the life and work of the Church both locally and in the larger community (*this is discipleship*).

### Discipleship Sample Questions:

- What was your most memorable service experience?
- What discoveries have you made about yourself (specifically your “gifts”) during the two years of preparation for Confirmation?
- Why do you think that service to others is such an important aspect of being a disciple of Christ?
- What are some things that you’d like to do in the parish in the future?
- How do you plan to serve others in the next year, during college, etc?

### III – Belief About God... “Who do you say I am?”

*Read Matthew 16:13-16*

This story is found in 3 of the 4 Gospels (*Matthew 16:13-16, Mark 8:27-29, and Luke 9:18-20*).

In all three of the accounts, Jesus’ exchange with His disciples is recorded shortly after the feeding of the four thousand (*five thousand in Luke*). At this point, Jesus has traveled all over teaching the masses and the elite. He has healed many, forgiven sins, walked on water, driven out demons, and even raised the dead!

The disciples had seen all of these miracles and had been following Jesus for some time. They had even been sent out in His name, preaching repentance, healing, and casting out demons. After all of this, Jesus turned to His disciples and asked, “Who do you say I am?”

This question is more complicated than it might seem; and it’s one that we all must face at some point in our lives. Who do we say Jesus is? A prophet? A moral teacher? A heretic? The Son of God? What about you? Who is Jesus to YOU?

#### Belief Sample Questions:

***Please Note – We are asking you to provide a “real” answer here. This is sort of your Thesis statement about your belief/relationship with God. If you give a short or “pat” answer, you will be asked to elaborate...***

- *In your life, who do others say Jesus is?*
- *Who do YOU say Jesus is/Who is Jesus to you? What does that mean for your life?*

***If time permits, you will be asked to choose one of the following questions to discuss...***

- *What do YOU believe about God?*
- *If you were to meet someone who had never heard of Jesus, who would you say that he is? How would you describe your relationship with him?*
- *What is the Bible? What role does it play in your life? How do you plan to learn more about scripture in the future?*
- *What is the Eucharist? Has your understanding of/and participation in, Mass changed in any way?*
- *What are some ways that you discern the will of God in your life? Give an example.*
- *If someone asked you how to get to heaven, what would you say?*
- *What is a belief held by the Church that “Challenges” you? Why? How does this affect your relationship with God?... With the Catholic community?*

### IV– Finally...

Ask the candidates about their desire to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation...

- Why do you want to receive the sacrament of Confirmation?
- Why is “being Catholic” important to you?
- Do you have any questions before being confirmed?

***Finally, the Block Buster Question of the Night...***

- *Do you want to be confirmed?*

***Blessings on your interview!***