

Outline for an initial meeting of Confirmation Catechists

OPENING PRAYER

INTRODUCTIONS

Welcome the group. Just as candidates need to feel comfortable, so too do catechists. If appropriate, ask everyone to share their name and something about themselves.

Give a brief explanation of the preparation course that is proposed in your parish / deanery.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A CONFIRMATION CATECHIST?

Refer to the section in the Guidelines and reflect on 'The Joy of the Gospel' (Pope Francis no. 164)

Perhaps invite someone who has been a Confirmation catechist before to share their experience e.g. How did it strengthen their own faith? What were the joys? What were the challenges?

FAITH SHARING

Take some time for catechists to share with each other. If the group is large, this could be in twos or threes. This will help catechists to be comfortable sharing with young people during the preparation course. Some questions could be:

- What do you remember about your own Confirmation?
- How has your understanding grown over the years? What does your Confirmation mean to you now?
- Something I believe about young people is...
- What are your hopes and expectations of this preparation programme? What do you hope young people will receive from it?
- Who has encouraged you on your faith journey and how?
- What gifts do you bring to this journey with young people?

PLANNING

Begin the planning of the programme. Questions to address are:

- Who are the candidates? How will we contact and invite them?
- Will we begin with an introductory evening for candidates and parents to come and find out about the programme?
- What will be included in the programme?
- How long will the programme be? When do we hope to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation?
- What are the themes for the sessions?
- How do we integrate our candidates into the faith community?
- How can we encourage other parishioners to be involved and delegate roles to them?

- Are there any young people we can invite to help with the programme e.g. last year's candidates?

Time will need to be set aside to plan the sessions. This may be done with the whole team or smaller groups of catechists may take responsibility for planning individual sessions.

When will the team meet to plan and prepare?

CLOSING PRAYER

Time to pray is essential. This makes us pause and remember we are on a journey together. Take turns to prepare the closing prayer for the catechists' meetings. If the initial meeting is over a longer period of time, share with each other some thoughts on prayer e.g.

- For me, some favourite ways to pray are....
- It helps me to pray when....
- A piece of scripture that is very meaningful to me is... because....

FUTURE PLANNING FOR EACH SESSION

- What is the aim of the session being planned?
- What is the content?
- Who is responsible for a particular / element?
- What resources are required for each session? Who is responsible for making sure the resources are available?
- How do people feel about their responsibility? What support can we give to each other?
- Clarification of what has been agreed (written timetable or plan)