



THE SPIRIT







Basic Requirements for the Reception of Confirmation:
Code of Canon Law
879-896

- Have a desire to receive the sacrament.
- Are living in a state of grace.
- Are willing to renew their baptismal promises.
- Have been formed and understand what they are seeking in the sacrament.
- Accept the call to discipleship.

Preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation

The Diocese of Palm Beach Vision for Youth Ministry recognizes that we are ministering in an apostolic time and in such a time, our standard methods of formation are no longer working. In response, we have shifted the method for Confirmation Preparation away from the academic, requirement driven classroom model, toward a conversion driven encounter of Christ and His Church within an intentional and relational parish youth ministry experience.

We began this process by rediscovering the beauty and significance of this sacrament in:

-  It's purpose
-  It's intimate relationship to the Sacrament of Baptism
-  It's sustenance in and order to the Holy Eucharist
-  It's fundamental requirements for reception

Our goal is to bring young people to encounters with and continued conversion to Jesus Christ. We believe when we foster those encounters within an evangelizing and catechizing small group, young people will not just desire to receive the Sacrament, they will actively seek it.

In this vision we are partnering with and training parish leaders in the diocesan 3B's of Evangelization and the process of conversion. We help parishes build structures to achieve their goals within the context of each parish's culture, tradition, needs and abilities.

Additional Experiences like retreats, service or mission opportunities, conferences, camps, etc., can and should be used to enhance the discipleship ministry experience but should not be used to replace the relational ministry necessary to accompany young people to an encounter and conversion to Jesus Christ.

For More Information:



The Vision



The Process

Confirmation within a Youth Ministry Setting

In the Diocese of Palm Beach Vision for Youth Ministry, preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation is no longer held out as a separate program of instruction, rather it is part of an intentional plan of formation within discipleship ministry that includes both middle and high school youth. Within this framework of relational small group ministry, using the RCIA/OCIA as the model, young people are mentored through distinct and indefinite phases of conversion. They are formed (both heart and mind) toward the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation which organically becomes the natural response of a young person to the movement of their will to receive the sacrament and their desire to live a deeper life in Christ. This approach is also forward thinking past the current “graduation effect” of the sacrament and builds up sustainable parish ministry to young people that works to accompany them throughout their high school career and beyond.

The Five Distinct Phases of Discipleship with their Corresponding Formation Themes leading to Confirmation and Beyond



The Inquiry or Evangelization Phase

BELONG

Theme: The Kerygma / Evangelization

Focus: Build Relationships, Cultivate Trust, Meet Immediate Needs, Witness the Faith, Feed Curiosity, Encounter Jesus, Proclaim the Gospel, Parent Partnership.

Goal: Begin small mentorship groups that build trusting relationships and include need based catechesis.



The Catechumenal or Discovery Phase - A

BELONG ➔ BELIEVE

Theme: Anthropology / Theology of the Body

Focus: Anthropology, The Sacredness of the Human Body, Objective Truth, T.O.B., I Am Unmistakably Made, What is God's Desire for US and what is Our Response.

Goal: Young people will have a clearer understanding of who God created them to be and how they can respond to God's desire for their lives.



The Catechumenal or Discovery Phase - B

BELONG ➔ BELIEVE

Theme: Sacramental Life / Sacramental Economy

Focus: The Sacraments, Life in Christ, Knowledge and Participation, Encountering Christ, Holy Mass, True Presence, Focus on Eucharist.

Goal: To reintroduce young people to the Sacramental Life / Economy, especially the Eucharist which is the life blood of the Christian existence.



The Purification and Enlightenment Phase

BELIEVE

Theme: Immediate Sacramental Preparation and Reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation

Focus: Discernment of Readiness to receive the Sacrament and Catechesis based on Sacramental need, Discernment of True Sponsorship/Lifelong Mentorship, The Communion of Saints and our place within that Communion, Reception of the Sacrament and Beginning of Mystagogia.

Goal: Discernment of readiness to receive and immediate preparation for the Sacrament.



The Mystagogia and Missionary Discipleship Phase

BECOME

Theme: Accompaniment, Discipleship, and Missionary Service

Focus: Deeper Formation and Spiritual Development, Mission / Service Opportunities, Continued Accompaniment.

Goal: To grow parish Youth Ministry that serves active missionary disciples by accompanying Youth toward continued encounters with Christ.

Scan for More Information &
Small Group Planning Guide

