



Sponsor Conversations

For Confirmation

5 Modules

These modules are designed for the Confirmandi and Sponsor to have a discussion about the provided faith formation topics and discuss the questions presented.

Then the Confirmandi will **write 5 – 10 sentences about the overall discussion** and submit the summary. IW Day School students will submit their summaries to Ms. Bock. IW PSR students and Private School Confirmation Prep students will submit their summaries on the parish website.

Module 1:

Together, Confirmandi and Sponsor, read about these three saints who trusted God. Then discuss the lives of the saints, and talk through the conversation starters. Finally, follow the directions to write and submit a summary of your conversation.

St. Joseph When Joseph learned Mary was pregnant and didn't understand how, an angel told him in a dream to take her as his wife — and Joseph trusted God even though nothing about it made sense to him. Later, an angel warned him to flee to Egypt to protect the baby Jesus from King Herod, and Joseph got up in the middle of the night and left everything behind, no arguing. Joseph never speaks a single word in the whole Bible, but he shows his faith by simply *doing* whatever God asked, quietly and completely.

St. Joan of Arc As a young teenager — around your age — Joan began hearing the voices of saints telling her God wanted her to help save France, and she believed them even though she was just a poor farm girl with no army and no power. She convinced the king to let her lead his soldiers, and against all odds she led France to real victories, trusting that God was with her. Even after she was captured, put on trial, and sentenced to death, she refused to deny what God had asked of her, and she died with the name of Jesus on her lips.

St. Carlo Acutis (the "first millennial saint," canonized in 2025) Carlo was a normal teenager who loved video games, soccer, and computers, but he trusted that God was the most important thing in his life and built a website to tell the whole world about miracles of the Eucharist. When he was diagnosed with leukemia at just 15, he offered his suffering to God for the Pope and the Church instead of asking "why me?" He said, "I am happy to die because I lived my life without wasting even a minute on things that don't please God" — trusting God completely, right to the end.

Confirmandi and Sponsor Conversation Starters:

"What's something you love doing so much you lose track of time? What are you good at? How might God want to use that? How can you trust that God has given you these gifts and talents?"

"How can you treat yourself with dignity—by choosing what is right—and how can you show charity to others this week like these saints who trusted God?"

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Module 2:

Together, Confirmandi and Sponsor read about the 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit and St. Catherine of Siena. Then discuss the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and life of St. Catherine. Next, talk through the conversation starters rooted in the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Finally, follow the directions to write and submit a summary of your conversation. **Complete the [Spiritual Gift Inventory](#) before completing this module.*

The 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit - definitions linked [HERE](#)

The Church teaches that the **seven gifts** are: **wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, fear of the Lord**. We received these at Baptism and the gifts will be stirred up at Confirmation. Catherine of Siena is an example of the gifts in action:

St Catherine of Siena (1247 – 1380) Christ-centered love, the Holy Spirit forming her, and service that brings peace.

- She lived a spiritual life of prayer, penance, and charity—especially for the sick.
- She entered the Third Order of the Dominicans (Mantellate), while living at home, and her prayer life (“interior cell”) was the foundation for her public guidance and mission.
- She was known for spiritual “motherhood”—people of many backgrounds gathered around her for guidance, and her letters traveled widely.
- She urged reform and peace and even pressed for the Pope’s return to Rome—showing that holiness can address real conflicts.
- Her teaching includes the idea that the Holy Spirit continues to “build the road” of Christian doctrine in the world—so that God’s truth reproves injustice and false judgment in every age.
- She was declared a Doctor of the Church (recognized as having especially excellent teaching).

One impressive account of how dedicated Catherine was to saving souls:

In 1375 in Siena, Italy, [St. Catherine of Siena](#) befriended Niccolò di Tuldo, a Perugian political prisoner sentenced to beheading for hot-headed talk against the ruling government. She visited his cell, guiding him to confession, Mass, and his first Holy Communion. She walked with him to the gallows, where she held his head and prayed as the axe fell.

Niccolò was initially furious, bitter, and entirely resistant to any spiritual counseling. But [Catherine of Siena](#) gently coaxed him out of his rage until he was completely calm and accepting of his fate.

She describes the tragic, profound event in a famous letter to her confessor, [Raymond of Capua](#). Her ministry and support unfolded through the following deeply moving steps:

- **The Prison Visit:** Catherine of Siena visited Niccolò in his dungeon, comforting him until his anger transformed into spiritual consolation.

- **Preparation for Death:** She returned the next morning, walking with him to the site where he heard Mass and partook in the Eucharist.
- **The Final Moments:** As they approached the execution block, she calmed him, assuring him he would die washed in divine blood with the name of Jesus on his lips.
- **The Scaffold:** Catherine knelt right beside the block. She made the sign of the cross on his forehead and waited with him in deep, ecstatic prayer until the axe dropped.
- **Catching the Head:** According to her letters, as the blade severed his head, she caught it in her bare hands, stating that her only desire was "I want this!" Observers reported that, instead of a grim execution scene, his passing felt like the martyrdom of a saint.

Confirmandi and Sponsor Conversation Starters on the 7 Gifts:

Wisdom: What would change if you prayed for wisdom before making a decision?

Understanding: Where do you struggle to believe or to understand the faith?

Counsel: Whose advice do you usually follow, and how could you better listen to God's plan for your life?

Fortitude: What temptation or pressures do you see that need courage to resist?

Knowledge: How do you notice God speaking through creation, people, and events in "real life," not just church?

Piety: How do you show love and trust toward God as your Father? Fear of the Lord (reverence, not terror – Wonder & Awe) What does this look like and feel like in our prayer life?

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Module 3:

Together, Confirmandi and Sponsor, read about the following Saints and how they evangelized and shared the faith with others. Then, discuss the lives of these Saints. Next, talk through the conversation starters rooted in how you can evangelize. Finally, follow the directions to write and submit a summary of your conversation.

Confirmation is the sacrament of Evangelization. Confirmation strengthens baptized Christians “to spread and defend the faith by word and deed.

Lives of the Saints:

St. Francis Xavier: Co-founder of the Jesuits, he is considered one of the greatest missionaries of modern times. He traveled to India, Indonesia, and Japan, converting thousands and establishing lasting Christian communities. Read more [HERE](#).

St. Patrick: The Apostle of Ireland was captured by pirates in his youth, later returning as a bishop to convert the Irish people. He famously used the shamrock to explain the Holy Trinity. Read more [HERE](#).

St. Francis of Assisi: Known for revitalizing a struggling Church, he evangelized by living an extreme life of poverty, preaching to the poor, and expressing the love of God through creation. Read more [HERE](#).

St. Juan Diego: An indigenous Mexican peasant who experienced the visions of Our Lady of Guadalupe in 1531. His encounters were pivotal in the mass evangelization of the Americas. Read more [HERE](#).

Saints Peter and Paul: The foundational architects of the early Church. St. Peter led the Jewish mission and established the Church in Rome, while St. Paul traveled extensively throughout the Mediterranean, writing letters that form much of the New Testament.

Confirmandi and Sponsor Conversation Starters:

- What would it look like for your faith to be “all the time,” not only “in church”?
- “One moment I can talk to God today is ____.” Why do you want God to be with you at that moment? How can your sponsor support you and pray for you at that moment?
- “One choice I want the Holy Spirit to guide me in this week is ____.” Why have you asked the Holy Spirit to guide you in choice? Will this choice help you show God’s love?
- “One act of charity I can do for someone else this week is ____.” How does this act of charity share or model the faith for someone else?

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Module 4:

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Keeping the Faith Alive after Confirmation: After Confirmation, we are called to keep our faith alive by praying daily, participating in the life of the Church, living according to the Gospel, and courageously witnessing to Christ through our words and actions.

St. Augustine spent years running from God — chasing pleasure, success, and every philosophy *except* Christianity — while his mother, St. Monica, prayed for him the whole time. When he finally converted, he wrote the line that sums up the whole search: *"You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you."* His lesson: the emptiness you sometimes feel isn't a malfunction — it's a signpost pointing home. And even if you drift, God waits.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton became Catholic as a young widow with five kids, and it cost her friends and family who turned away from her. She was drawn in by the Eucharist and kept her faith alive through plain daily faithfulness — she later said her whole aim each day was simply "to do the will of God." Her lesson: faith often survives not on big dramatic feelings but on small, steady habits, even when it's hard and unpopular.

St. John Henry Newman was a famous Anglican priest who followed the truth into the Catholic Church even though it wrecked his career and cost him close friends. His motto was *"heart speaks to heart"* — for him, faith was both a serious search with the mind *and* a personal relationship. His lesson: it's okay to wrestle with hard questions; honest wrestling is part of a living faith, not the enemy of it.

Confirmandi and Sponsor Conversation Starters:

- *Have you ever gotten something you were sure would make you happy — and then felt weirdly empty anyway? What do you think that restlessness is really about? How can you share the faith to help others rest in Jesus?*
- *Have you ever had to do the right thing when it wasn't the popular thing? Where did the strength come from? How can you encourage others to live according to the gospel and live a life of faith?*
- *Faith is like a fire; it goes out if you never feed it. What's one thing you could do each week to keep yours burning — prayer, Mass, a friend who believes, reading a little Scripture?*

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Module 5:

Together, Confirmandi and Sponsor, discuss your Confirmation Saint. Use the conversation starters to talk through why you chose the Saint you did. Finally, follow the directions to write and submit a summary of your conversation.

Confirmandi and Sponsor Conversation Starters:

- *Who is your confirmation Saint?*
- *Why did you pick that Saint?*
- *How has this Saint influenced and inspired you to grow in your faith?*
- *Were you inspired by any of the Saints you discussed in your sponsor conversations? If so, how did they inspire you?*
- *What virtues do you and your Saint have in common or what virtues do you want this Saint to help you grow in?*
- *What Gifts of the Holy Spirit do you have in common or what gifts do you want this Saint to help you grow in?*
- *How do you plan to ask this Saint to intercede for you as you continue to live out your faith after Confirmation?*

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Currently Removed—

Reconciliation is not just “feeling bad,” but God’s mercy that *reorders* and gives a “new beginning,” so the heart has room to receive grace. The Church teaches that forgiveness of sins after Baptism is given through “the sacrament of conversion, confession, penance, or reconciliation,” and that it is a “source and sign of radical mercy, reconciliation and peace.”

St Stephen the First Martyr (forgiveness and prayer for others)

Forgiveness is powerful and God-centered, even in extreme circumstances:

- Stephen is presented as praying for mercy for his persecutors, as he was stoned to death for preaching about Jesus, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them” (Acts 7:60).
- If Stephen could pray for those who hurt him, what would it teach me about how I should pray for my enemies or people I dislike?

St Maria Goretti (repentance + forgiveness, including after deep wrong)

- Pope John Paul II highlights that her murderer “recognized the sin he had committed,” asked forgiveness of God and of the martyr’s family, and that her mother pardoned him; forgiveness is described as a demanding model (not permissiveness), requiring recognition of sin and responsibilities. [6](#)
- As Maria lie dying, she forgave and desired/prayed that her murderer (Alessandro Sereneli) would reach heaven; later the murderer (Alessandro) converted, asked forgiveness, and even approached Communion with her mother.
- If someone hurt me, what would it look like to respond with mercy instead of revenge—even in a small way?

A short closing reflection:

Lord, I trust you and I want to be closer to you so I can walk in freedom to enjoy my life without burdens. Amen

- “What burden will I bring to God in Confession so my heart can be reorganized toward His peace?”