

## Lesson 7: Celebration and Looking Ahead

\*Note: this lesson is normally designed be implemented after confirmation has taken place. However, it has been adapted to be presented in synchronization with the other six lessons. Thematically, it is organized around the ultimate celebration: Heaven!

### Curriculum Goals:

- Discerning his or her gifts and find ways to contribute positively to the Church and society. The student also needs to discern whether God is calling him or her to religious life. A special emphasis on the Sacrament of Marriage and its permanence needs to be presented as well.
- Understanding of Christian States of Life.

### Lesson Plan Overview:

1. Intro, Prayer and Celebration (3-30 mins)
2. Reflection Activity I: What does Confirmation Mean to You? (10-15 mins)
3. Episode 7 of the Confirmation Video Series: (6 mins)
4. Discussion Questions and/or Worksheet: Christian States of Life (10-20 mins)
5. Teacher Presentation: What Confirmation means for God, the Church and Your Eternal Life (10 mins)
6. Closing Prayer: (2 mins)

### 1) Introduction, Prayer and Celebration

### 2) Reflection Activity I: What does Confirmation Mean to You?

*If you try to make this lesson more informal by including drinks, snacks, and a festive atmosphere, this would be time to have students informally share what they are looking forward to with their confirmation. If they have already been confirmed, you could have them share their reflections about how the ceremony went and what they liked about it. They should also be prompted to share any spiritual insights or special graces they may have received.*

*If this lesson is implemented without the food and festivities, then try to make this activity as interactive as possible.*

*Either way, the point of this portion of the class is to give the students a space to reflective cumulatively on everything that has been discussed and everything that they have experienced.*

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**3) Episode 6 of the Confirmation Video Series: The Challenges of Discipleship** *(These are the Key Points from the Catechism of the Catholic Church that are covered in the video. They are provided here in their entirety as a reference to aid your interaction with students while reviewing the Discussion Questions after viewing the video.)*

- CCC 307 To human beings God even gives the power of freely sharing in his providence by entrusting them with the responsibility of "subduing" the earth and having dominion over it. God thus enables men to be intelligent and free causes in order to complete the work of creation, to perfect its harmony for their own good and that of their neighbors. Though often unconscious collaborators with God's will, they can also enter deliberately into the divine plan by their actions, their prayers and their sufferings. They then fully become "God's fellow workers" and co-workers for his kingdom
- CCC 1025 To live in heaven is "to be with Christ." the elect live "in Christ," but they retain, or rather find, their true identity, their own name. For life is to be with Christ; where Christ is, there is life, there is the kingdom.
- That identity is discovered and developed on earth through the living out of your Christian vocation
- Each Christian is called to a unique vocation that only he or she can live out.
- However, Christian vocation as generally organized into Four Christian States of Life
  - **Lay Single Life:** characterized by living out baptism and confirmation in the "temporal works" of this life to bring the Kingdom on "earth as it is in heaven"
  - **Married Life:** the covenantal, sacramental vocation between a man and a woman in which physical union and procreation help lead the couple and others to heaven
  - **Priesthood:** those men who are called in the sacrament of ordination to act *in persona Christi* according to Jesus' own sacramental and magisterial authority
  - **Consecrated Life:** those men and women are called to poverty, chastity and obedience in order to perfectly anticipate the coming Kingdom by their lives
- Christian vocations are NOT careers! They are the specific mission whereby the Christian discovers his or her identity in God's heart through a life lived in love
- CCC 1023 Those who die in God's grace and friendship and are perfectly purified live for ever with Christ. They are like God for ever, for they "see him as he is," face to face...
- CCC 1024 This perfect life with the Most Holy Trinity - this communion of life and love with the Trinity, with the Virgin Mary, the angels and all the blessed - is called "heaven." Heaven is the ultimate end and fulfillment of the deepest human longings, the state of supreme, definitive happiness.
- CCC 1304 Like Baptism which it completes, Confirmation is given only once, for it too imprints on the soul an indelible spiritual mark, the "character," which is the sign that

Jesus Christ has marked a Christian with the seal of his Spirit by clothing him with power from on high so that he may be his witness.

- CCC 1305 This "character" perfects the common priesthood of the faithful, received in Baptism, and "the confirmed person receives the power to profess faith in Christ publicly and as it were officially (quasi ex officio)."
- CCC 2544 Jesus enjoins his disciples to prefer him to everything and everyone, and bids them "renounce all that [they have]" for his sake and that of the Gospel. Shortly before his passion he gave them the example of the poor widow of Jerusalem who, out of her poverty, gave all that she had to live on. The precept of detachment from riches is obligatory for entrance into the Kingdom of heaven.

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#### **4) Discussion Questions and/or Worksheet: The Christian States of Life**

*Both the Discussion Questions and Worksheet are designed to give students a chance to express what they think is good about each of the Christian states of life. As regards single and married life, they should be prompted to consider how the Christian calling to these states is different from the worldly understanding of them. For priesthood and consecrated life, they should be asked to reflect on how the sacrifices that these people are called to make bear witness to the Gospel and help lead all humans closer to God.*

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#### **5) Teacher Presentation: What Confirmation means for God, the Church and Your Eternal Life**

**Key notes:** *(Use these annotated paragraphs from the Catechism of the Catholic Church to*

*prepare a brief presentation on the topic. Also, feel free to draw on appropriate experiences and examples from your own adult life as a confirmed Catholic to illustrate how taking ownership of your place in the Church as brought you closer to God, to others and enriched your path to salvation. **Do not miss the opportunity to compare and contrast celebration here on earth with the ultimate celebration of Heaven.***)

- CCC 1023 Those who die in God's grace and friendship and are perfectly purified live for ever with Christ. They are like God for ever, for they "see him as he is," face to face...
- CCC 1024 This perfect life with the Most Holy Trinity - this communion of life and love with the Trinity, with the Virgin Mary, the angels and all the blessed - is called "heaven." Heaven is the ultimate end and fulfillment of the deepest human longings, the state of supreme, definitive happiness.
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## 6) Closing Prayer

Additional Lesson Suggestions:

- Celebrate! Surprise your students by setting up the class like a reception (complete with food, drinks, decorations and even music) to celebrate their Confirmation and to encourage them to consider their next steps.
- Ask the students for their own ideas for ways to make youth ministry more engaging. Provide some options of youth group ideas or study programs. Ask where their interests are and what they'd like to do. Be open to their ideas.