

LESSON PLANⁱ

FORMING DISCIPLES FOR THE NEW EVANGELIZATIONⁱⁱ

PREPARING TO TEACH THE LESSON

Topic: The Sacrament of Confirmation

Grade Level: 8th

Methodology: Art and Environment

Standardⁱⁱⁱ 3 Sacraments: Understand and participate in the sacraments of the Church as effective signs of Gods' grade, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church.

Indicator:

8.03.03 Recognize confirmation as a Sacrament of Initiation carrying an indelible character sealing the confirmands with the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Environment:

A prayer space is prepared with candle burning. Symbols for celebrating the sacrament of confirmation are prominently displayed in the center of the gathering space (Oil, depiction of the Holy Spirit as a dove, water, anointing, laying on of hands). Images of the Holy Spirit and a poster board with three sacraments of initiation.

Treasure box containing flash cards (gifts of the Holy Spirit – Wisdom, Understanding, Right judgment, Courage, Knowledge, Piety, Fear of the Lord.

A second treasure box contains the fruits of the Holy Spirit).

Music plays in the background to create desired atmosphere. A table fan prominently placed.

TEACHING THE LESSON

Welcome: Greet students by name with soft music playing on the background as they walk into a sacred space.

Prayer: Come Holy Spirit

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful. Enkindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit, and they will be created. And you will renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray: Lord, by the light of the Holy Spirit, you have taught the hearts of the faithful. In the same spirit, help us to relish what is right and always rejoice in your consolation. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Review: Ask the students what they remember about the sacraments of initiation. How many are there? Name the Sacraments of Initiation. Explain to the students that the three sacraments of initiation are the foundation for Christian life.

Preview: Explain to the students about the Holy Spirit and Pentecost. Tell the students that the common image of the Holy Spirit is a breeze or wind. Let them think about ways to encounter wind, gentle breezes that cools the body; steady winds that generate power, or sail boats etc.

Presentation:

Step 1. I will introduce the lesson by calling the class attention to the items on display. I will ask them to say something about each item. Then I will explain that each item is a representative of the image of the Holy Spirit in the scripture (Water, Ezekiel 36:24-27; John 4:7-15; Oil and anointing, Matthew: 25:1-13; Fire, Luke12:49; Acts 2:1-4; Wind or Breath, Genesis 1:1-2; Acts 2:2; Dove, Genesis 8:8-12; John 1:29-34. Then I will turn on the fan and asking the students to feel the air. The story from Act of the Apostles 2:1-13 is read.

- Step 2.** Using their imagination they will explain the meaning of the strong wind on Pentecost and the work of the Spirit on believers. Remind them that we cannot see the wind yet we feel the effect. How the action of the Holy Spirit in their life be likened to the power and movement of the wind?
- Step 3.** Small Group work with the images: Students will be assigned images displayed and they will list their experience and use of their images and identify which items on their list tell about the Holy Spirit. If the Holy Spirit is like the wind, imagine how the spirit works in our lives. Discussion follows, example strengthening properties of oil. I will add that the Holy Spirit also have title – advocate/Paraclete (John 14:16, 15:26, 16:7). Explain the meaning of both words.
- Step 4.** Explain that before Jesus announced his ministry in the synagogue, he read from the book of Isaiah “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me.” (Luke 4:18). Confirmation strengthens us in our journey of faith. Just as we were anointed during our baptism, we are anointed and sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit in confirmation. Thus we receive the help we need to carry out the mission of Christ in our life. The gifts of the Holy Spirit help us to focus on God, helping us to live out our baptismal call to go out and make disciples of others.
- Step 5.** Explain that there are seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. They listen to the reading from 1Cor. 12::4-7. I will allow the students to explore and reflect on these gifts. Then I will allow each student to pick one gift (flash card) from the treasure box. They will each define their gift in their own words/ideas. Invite them to share with the class.
- Step 6.** Remind the students that gifts are supposed to be used. So the gifts we receive from the Holy Spirit will be put to use. Ask them to draw one thing that shows how they are going to use their gift. Then, let them listen to another reading from Gal. 5:22-23. Encourage them to use their gifts for the greater glory of God, at home, school, Church and the wider community. Tell the students that the rewards of using our gifts are known as the fruits of the Holy Spirit. Then let each student pick a fruit of the Holy Spirit from the second treasure box.

Evaluation/Response: Ask the students how they encounter or use symbols at home or school. Which of their experience of the symbol tell them about the Holy Spirit? How

are symbols used to identify the Holy Spirit in Scripture? Ask them how the gifts of the Holy Spirit help them to live their daily life?

Assignment: Reflect on today's topic and create a pictograph of the images of the Holy Spirit from magazines and newspapers. Put on background music while you are working on this.

Announcements: We are going to work on the gifts/fruits of the Holy Spirit puzzle next week.

Closing Prayer: Dear God, you have poured out your spirit upon me. Help me to accept your gifts wholeheartedly, develop them fully, and share them with others. May your Spirit within me help me become the person you are calling me to be! Make me more like Christ every day, and help me to spread Christ's presence wherever I go. Amen

ⁱ The language used in this Lesson Planning Outline is geared to work with children and teenagers. When using it with adults, you may want to substitute the word "session" for "lesson," and the word "participant" for "student."

ⁱⁱ The AMS Archdiocesan Religion Curriculum Guide, Grades Pre-K. to 8.

ⁱⁱⁱ *Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization* is structured around 14 Standards derived from the 4 pillars of the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the 6 Key Elements of Catholic Life outlined in the National Directory for Catechesis, no 20. The 14 Standards are: 1) Creed, 2) Sacred Scripture, 3) Sacraments, 4) Liturgy, 5) Conscience, 6) Christian Living, 7) Prayer, 8) Catholic Church, 9) Ecumenism, 10) Catholic Principles and Relationships, 11) Vocation, 12) Catholic Social Teaching, 13) Inter-Religious Dialogue, and 14) Missionary Vocation. Please see the chart on pages 3-4 of the Archdiocesan Religion Curriculum Guide.