

# Adult Confirmation Virtual Training

September 1, 2020  
GoToTraining



# Technical Notes Before We Begin

- This training will be recorded for future viewing and sharing.
- Webcams will not be shared; all attendees will be muted until small group breakout discussions.
- Navigation bar (on right) or “Flower Power” icon (on bottom) for control.
- Feel free to add questions or contribute via the “Chat” and “Polls” tabs.
- Handouts are available in the “Materials” tab.



“

*Come Holy Spirit,  
fill the hearts of Your faithful  
and kindle in them the fire of Your love.  
Send forth Your Spirit and they shall be created.  
And You shall renew the face of the earth.*

*O, God,  
who by the light of the Holy Spirit,  
did instruct the hearts of the faithful,  
grant that by the same Holy Spirit  
we may be truly wise  
and ever enjoy His consolations,  
Through Christ Our Lord.  
Amen.*

”



# *Welcome!*

**Nicole M. Perone**

Archdiocesan Director of Adult Faith Formation

[Nicole.Perone@AOHCT.org](mailto:Nicole.Perone@AOHCT.org)

860.242.5573 x2677





# 1. The Sacrament of Confirmation

A quick introduction – or reminder

# The Sacrament of Confirmation

- Sacrament of anointing...
  - ... By the Holy Spirit via the bishop or his delegate
- Final Sacrament of Initiation
  - Following Baptism and First Holy Communion
- Deepening and completion of the sacrament of Baptism
  - Faith given in Baptism is now confirmed
  - Does not “stand on its own two feet”
- Sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit
- An adult faith, manifested more fully and joyfully
- Divine responsibility to actively live the vocation given by God



*Knowledge  
Understanding*

*Wisdom*

*Counsel*

*Piety*

*Fortitude*

*Fear of the Lord*



## 2. Adults Seeking Confirmation

About the population we serve



# About the Population We Serve

## A Group In “Limbo”

- Often uncatechized, occasionally unchurched
- Overwhelmingly young adults: In the Archdiocese of Hartford, over 85% of adults confirmed at the Archdiocesan ceremonies are under the age of 40

## Various Motivations

- Preparing to be a godparent or a sponsor
  - All 3 Sacraments of Initiation are required (and to be completed, not in-process)
- Preparing for the sacrament of matrimony
  - Not *technically* required (should not be the carrot-and-stick method)
- Moved to complete outstanding sacraments

## Adults vs. Teens

- Different: intellectual level; formation context
- Similar: need for catechesis; questions (especially on “hot topics”); attention spans
  - Many tools and resources still translate

# Where Do They Belong?

Neither an adolescent Confirmation preparation program, nor the RCIA process is appropriate for the sacramental preparation of adults who are seeking the sacrament of Confirmation.



# Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Adults who have not been baptized AND/OR adults who have been baptized (Catholic or otherwise)  
who have not received First Communion

## Youth Confirmation

Anyone under age 18

## Adult Confirmation

Adult baptized Roman Catholic who has received First Communion, but NOT Confirmation



### 3. What Is Needed

... And what is not!

# What Is Needed

- Must be 18 years of age or older
  - Safe Environments issue!
  - Under 18: catechesis/sacramental prep in parish youth faith formation
- 2 out of 3 Sacraments of Initiation
  - Record (or suitable substitute) of Baptism and First Holy Communion
  - Otherwise: RCIA process
- Resolution of all marital impediments
  - Marriage which is not sacramental must be convalidated/marital impediments requiring the consultation of the Metropolitan Marriage Tribunal must be resolved BEFORE the sacrament of Confirmation
  - This is Archdiocesan policy and, more importantly, canon law

# What Is NOT Needed

- The Sacrament of Confirmation for the Sacrament of Matrimony
  - Canon 1065.1: “If they can do so *without serious inconvenience*, Catholics who have not yet received the sacrament of confirmation are to receive it before being admitted to marriage.”
  - Confirmation is not the “stick” and marriage the “carrot”
- Living Saints Who Are Registered and Active Parishioners with Advanced Degrees in Theology
  - This is an opportunity to:
    - Enter more abundantly into the life of the Church
    - Come to know, love, and serve Jesus more fully
    - Engage more deeply with a parish community
  - Remember that we are a “field hospital,” not an “exclusive club”!



## 4. How to Prepare Confermandi

# Some Logistics for Preparation

## ■ Choosing a Date/Time for Sacramental Prep

- Consider that evenings are often easier for working adults
- Another option: Sunday post-Mass (to plug into parish life)
- Would not recommend exceeding 2 hours

## ■ How Long Should Preparation Take Place?

- 5-8 weeks (depending on resources/curriculum/needs)
- Varies by needs of the community

## ■ Open to All vs. Parishioners Only

- Consider allowing non-parishioners to attend class – why?
  - We as a Church should never turn away those seeking a sacrament
  - May not be connected to a parish at all – opportunity!
  - You may be the only Gospel they experience



# Some Topics and Tips

## The Sacrament Itself

Consider how this presentation began: what the Sacrament of Confirmation is and means, and what the experience will be like.

## Basics of Roman Catholicism

And I do mean basic.... See this point! →

Ecclesiology; Liturgy; Prayer Practices; etc.

## “Hot Topics”

Catholic Social Teaching and the Church’s take on social/moral issues will always come up. Get out ahead of the hard questions!

## Know Thy Audience

As previously addressed, this demographic may be uncatechized or unchurched; do not lead a graduate-level course!

Remember: “never assume malice when ignorance is an equal offender.”

## More Than Just Curriculum

Consider the 6 Tasks of Catechesis; move beyond the intellectual to strengthen spiritual habits, integrate liturgy, etc.

## Remember Your Role

Always start from a place of mercy, compassion, grace, and welcome.

You are NOT the “Eucharist/Doctrine Police”!

# Recommended Resources

## OEEC Resources Sheet for Publisher-Produced Curriculum

- ✓ Also available on OEEC website ([www.CatholicEdAOHCT.org](http://www.CatholicEdAOHCT.org))
- ✓ OEEC staff are available to share resources, consult, customize curriculum, share their syllabi, etc.

## Design Your Own Sacramental Preparation

- ✓ Articles from reputable Catholic sources
- ✓ Videos (e.g. Busted Halo)
- ✓ Interactive activities
- ✓ Discussion topics and small-group conversations
- ✓ “Question Jar”
- ✓ Service experiences
- ✓ Interactive/”Teaching” Mass
- ✓ Q&A with parish clergy
- ✓ Collaboration with RCIA team and other parish ministries
- ✓ Sacrament of Confession





## 5. When the End is Nigh

Preparing for the Confirmation Ceremony

# Options for Confirmation Ceremonies

## Archdiocesan Adult Confirmation Ceremony

- ✓ The preferred scenario for adults in the Archdiocese of Hartford
- ✓ Celebrant: Archbishop Blair (or Bishop Betancourt)
- ✓ Occurrence: Fall (usually before Advent) and spring (usually in Easter season) of each pastoral year
- ✓ Registration through the OEEC; forms available in advance and due 1-2 weeks prior to ceremony
- ✓ Professionally photographed
- ✓ In 2020, this is NOT a guarantee....

## Parish Adult Confirmation Ceremony

- ✓ Special circumstance for 2020!
- ✓ Pastors can receive this delegation from the office of the Archbishop, just as with youth Confirmation
- ✓ The Rite of Confirmation will be provided by the office of the Archbishop along with delegation
- ✓ All guidance for the celebration of Mass in the COVID context still applies
- ✓ Opportunity for sacred, smaller ceremony in context of parish

## Parish Youth Confirmation Ceremony

- ✓ Adults can be confirmed with teens when a bishop/delegate comes to parish for Confirmation ceremony
- ✓ Viable option when working adults cannot attend Archdiocesan ceremony
- ✓ Can lend itself to some awkwardness

# Small Group Discussions

The organizers will move you into a breakout room  
(open in a new Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox browser window – DO NOT CLOSE!).

In the breakout room, you can share your webcam (click settings on the right when in breakout)  
as well as audio (be sure to allow microphone access).



“

*Breathe into me, Holy Spirit,  
that my thoughts may all be holy.*

*Move in me, Holy Spirit,  
that my work, too, may be holy.*

*Attract my heart, Holy Spirit,  
that I may love only what is holy.*

*Strengthen me, Holy Spirit,  
that I may defend all that is holy.*

*Protect me, Holy Spirit,  
that I may always be holy.*

*Amen.*

”

# Thank You!

Please visit [www.CatholicEdAOHCT.org](http://www.CatholicEdAOHCT.org)  
for more resources.

Questions? Concerns?  
Seeking consultation?  
Email [Nicole.Perone@AOHCT.org](mailto:Nicole.Perone@AOHCT.org)  
to set up a time to talk.

