

CONFIRMATION SERIES **APPROVED SERIES**

All of the following textbook series are approved by the Diocesan Catechetical Committee for their content, correlation with the diocesan Curriculum Standards for Catechesis, ~~and conformity with the Catechism (as approved by the Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.)~~

ASCENSION PRESS - Chosen: Your Journey toward Confirmation © 2014

I. GENERAL OVERVIEW:

Note: Because catechetical content for this program is contained on videos, this program is not eligible for review by the USCCB's Subcommittee on the Catechism.

This is a Confirmation preparation program consisting of 24 lessons. Each lesson includes three short video clips, discussion questions, a personal witness story, a saint's story, a weekly challenge and prayer. Materials include an 8-DVD set, Leader's Guide, Student Workbook, and optional Parent and Sponsors Guide. It is designed for a 90-minute class. It is designed for students in grades 8-10, but can be used with older students. It suggests a small-group discipleship format with 5-12 teens per small group leader.

II. SPECIFIC STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES:

CATEGORY	STRENGTH	WEAKNESS	COMMENT/EXPLANATION
<i>COMPATIBILITY WITH STANDARDS</i>	X		<p>Very good compatibility with "Immediate Preparation for Confirmation Standards."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs more on renewal of Baptismal vows. <p>It also covers a significant part of "Pillar II: The Sacraments" in the 9th-12th grade Curriculum Standards. Please see below for suggestions on the implementation of <i>Chosen</i> within your catechetical program.</p> <p>The doctrine is covered fairly quickly in the videos. More in-depth coverage is found in the student homework section of each lesson.</p>
<i>PRAYER TOOLS & LITURGICAL TOOLS</i>	X		<p>Good opening and closing prayers for each lesson.</p> <p>Good liturgical resources: Rites, Examination of Conscience, etc.</p>
<i>CATECHISM & SCRIPTURE REFERENCE</i>	X		<p>CCC references in Leaders Guide: On Overview pages and in margins. Some CCC references within text of Student book.</p> <p>Scripture: In margins of Leaders Guide. Throughout text. Opening and closing prayers often contain Scripture passages. Every chapter has Scriptural "Memory Verse."</p>

CATEGORY	STRENGTH	WEAKNESS	COMMENT/EXPLANATION
<i>PARISH/SCHOOL COMPATIBILITY</i>			N/A
<i>FAMILY INVOLVEMENT</i>	X		Parent guides and sponsor guides can be purchased separately. These guides provide many helpful resources. They correspond to the students' lessons, but do not require actual attendance at the student lessons.
<i>TEACHER RESOURCES</i>	X		Leaders Guides walk the leaders through each lesson.
<i>ASSESSMENT TOOLS</i>	X		Short DVD review at beginning of each lesson. Assessment of previous lesson: video review, homework, memory verse.
<i>OTHER SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS</i>	X		Downloadable liturgical resources on their website. Parent guides and sponsor guides can be purchased separately.
<i>ONLINE RESOURCES</i>	X		Downloadable liturgical resources on their website.
<i>DIVERSITY FOR THE LEARNER (LEARNING STYLES, CULTURE, ETC.</i>	X		Good cultural diversity in DVD's and textbooks. DVD format provides good audio and visual presentations.
<i>APPEARANCE & FORMAT</i>	X		Very pleasing and attractive format. Contains good variety photos, sacred art, saints pictures. DVD and textbook attractive to youth. Good variety, colorful, dignified.

III. SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS:

This program provides an excellent immediate preparation for Confirmation. It also reviews and covers a significant amount of the diocese's Curriculum Standards for 9th-12th Grades. The following are two options for implementation:

Option 1 – Use the entire *Chosen* program in 11th Grade (Year 3 of Confirmation prep cycle):

1. Year 1 (9th Grade) - Morality
2. Year 2 (10th Grade) - Creed & Prayer
3. Year 3 (11th Grade) - *Chosen* Confirmation Series (Sacraments and Immediate Preparation for Confirmation)
 - Note: Be attentive to the Curriculum Guides for “Pillar II: The Sacraments.” You will need to include some additional information on the sacraments that are found in the Curriculum Standards but are not included in *Chosen*.
- *Chosen* contains 24 lessons, so you may need to combine some lessons in order to have time for special events, such as Reconciliation, special Masses, or other special topics.

Option 2 – Use part of the *Chosen* program for immediate Confirmation prep in 11th Grade.

- This would be the case if a parish already has a 3-year cycle in place for covering the Curriculum Standards for high school.
- Select certain lessons from *Chosen* to use for 6-8 sessions specifically related to Confirmation.
 - Suggestions: Lessons 1 & 2 (combined) – Intro and Discovering God
 - Lesson 3 – Salvation History
 - Lesson 4 – Divine Revelation
 - Lesson 5 – The Person and Mission of Jesus Christ
 - Lesson 6 – Discovering the Church Jesus Founded
 - Lesson 12 – The Holy Spirit
 - Lesson 13 – Gifts of the Spirit
 - Lesson 14 – Confirmation
- If you use this format, you may want to provide an opportunity in the 12th grade for the lessons that were not previously covered, as they provide a good review of the essentials of the Catholic faith.

The format of *Chosen* consists of small groups watching a series of video clips and with discussion after each video. You will need to think about the logistics for this in your parish. You could have all of the small groups watch the video together and then break out for discussion. Or, you may want to order multiple copies of the DVD's so that each small group has its own DVD to watch.

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DYNAMIC CATHOLIC – *Decision Point* © 2014

I. GENERAL OVERVIEW:

This is a Confirmation preparation program consisting of 12 lessons. Each lesson contains six short video clips, followed by discussion questions. Materials include 12 video lessons, Leader's Guide, and Student Workbook. The Student Workbook is also meant to be used by parents and sponsors. It is suggested that a lesson be covered in a 2-hour class. The videos can be watched via DVD or online, through e-mail notices or on an app. It is designed for youth ages 12-18.

II. SPECIFIC STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES:

CATEGORY	STRENGTH	WEAKNESS	COMMENT/EXPLANATION
<i>COMPATIBILITY WITH STANDARDS</i>	X		It covers the Curriculum Standards for "Immediate Preparation for Confirmation" very well. Need to bring in more on the Paschal Mystery. It mentions the importance of conscience and the importance of following Church teaching, but the connection between the two (properly forming one's conscience) should be emphasized more.
<i>PRAYER TOOLS & LITURGICAL TOOLS</i>	X		Each session begins with prayer. They are not the liturgical prayers of the Church, but private prayers of saints and other individuals. Emphasizes the importance of a daily "prayer process." Includes references to saints. Also includes references to non-Catholics, but in an appropriate way. Good emphasis on the importance of the sacraments.
<i>CATECHISM & SCRIPTURE REFERENCE</i>	X	X	Each lesson contains several Scripture quotes. While the content reflects the Catechism's teachings, direct CCC quotes are minimal.
<i>PARISH/SCHOOL COMPATIBILITY</i>			N/A
<i>FAMILY INVOLVEMENT</i>	X		Parents and sponsors can sign up to receive a weekly e-mail with the same lesson that the student has

CATEGORY	STRENGTH	WEAKNESS	COMMENT/EXPLANATION
			received. The workbook is designed for student, parent, and sponsor use. Lesson 10.2 on the importance of preparing for Confirmation would be good to show to parents.
TEACHER RESOURCES	X		Leader's Guide walks the leader through each lesson. Provides tips for teaching.
ASSESSMENT TOOLS	X		Reflection questions after each video segment. Crossword puzzle at end of each lesson.
OTHER SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS		X	No additional supplemental materials available.
ONLINE RESOURCES	X		All lessons are available online for free. Video lessons can be viewed via DVD, Internet, e-mail, or app. Leader's Guide and Student Workbook can be downloaded for free. The variety of platforms (DVD, online, e-mail, app) makes the program's components easily available to students, parents, catechists, sponsors, and others.
DIVERSITY FOR THE LEARNER (LEARNING STYLES, CULTURE, ETC.	X		Good use of audio, video, workbook, and discussion to address different learning styles. Workbook does not contain photos, and video presentation is done by one speaker, so cultural diversity is not addressed.
APPEARANCE & FORMAT	X		Videos are engaging and professionally done. There is only one speaker, but he is an engaging speaker. Workbook contains attractive design for youth.

III. SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS:

This program provides a very good immediate preparation for Confirmation. It is evangelistic in tone, inviting the youth to make the decision to follow God's plan for their lives. The twelve sessions can be used as the "Immediate Preparation for Confirmation." It should not replace the remote preparation for Confirmation. (For example, assuming students are confirmed in the spring of their 11th grade year, the first part of the 11th grade year should be used to fulfill the diocesan curriculum standards for 9th-12th grades. *Decision Point* can be used for the 12 sessions immediately prior to Confirmation.) The final two sessions ("Made for Mission" and "Holiness is Possible") could also be done as Mystagogy, following reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

This program uses a lot of good, real-life analogies and invites personal conversion to Christ.

The workbooks contain the entire text from the videos, along with additional information.

The format of *Decision Point* consists of small groups watching a series of video clips with discussion after each video. You will need to think about the logistics for this in your parish. You could have all of the small groups watch the video together and then break out for discussion. Or, you may want to order multiple copies of the DVD's so that each small group has its own DVD to watch.

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LOYOLA PRESS – Confirmed in the Spirit © 2007

I. GENERAL OVERVIEW:

This text is for preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. The student text/catechist manual contains 8 chapters: Confirmed in the Spirit; Confirmed in Discipleship; Confirmed in Faith; Confirmed in Love; Confirmed in Holiness; Confirmed in the Church; Confirmed in Grace; Confirmed in Witness. It includes a section entitled “Things Every Catholic Should Know:” Living our Faith; Celebrating our Faith; Devotions of our Faith. It also contains a good glossary.

II. SPECIFIC STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES:

CATEGORY	STRENGTH	WEAKNESS	COMMENT/EXPLANATION
<i>COMPATIBILITY WITH STANDARDS</i>	X		Covers the Standards for immediate preparation for Confirmation. Does well on God the Creator, etc.
<i>PRAYER TOOLS & LITURGICAL TOOLS</i>	X		Each chapter concludes with a prayer. Each chapter stresses another different aspect of Confirmation. Catechist manual contains “mini-retreats” before each chapter begins.
<i>CATECHISM & SCRIPTURE REFERENCE</i>	X	X	Contains many references to Scripture, but student text lacks references to the Catechism. However, the catechist manual does contain many references to the Catechism.
<i>PARISH/SCHOOL COMPATIBILITY</i>	X		It is compatible with both parish and school.
<i>FAMILY INVOLVEMENT</i>		X	It is hard to say that it has “family involvement” or not, but each chapter has a “Reach out” section that each confirmand is to do.
<i>TEACHER RESOURCES</i>	X		Catechist manual is very helpful in each session and has many helpful suggestions.
<i>ASSESSMENT TOOLS</i>	X		Each chapter has a summary and review. The catechist manual has a “black line

CATEGORY	STRENGTH	WEAKNESS	COMMENT/EXPLANATION
			master” of quizzes for each chapter.
<i>OTHER SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS</i>		X	There are no “suggested resources, “ but the catechist manual has a section called “Enriching the Faith Experience” where the confirmand is recommended to do some charitable work/action.
<i>ONLINE RESOURCES</i>		X	None listed.
<i>DIVERSITY FOR THE LEARNER (LEARNING STYLES, CULTURE, ETC.</i>	X		Provides various activities for different learning styles.
<i>APPEARANCE & FORMAT</i>	X		The text is colorful, and very easy to read and follow.

III. SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ◆ This text provides a useful guide for covering the Diocesan Standards on preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. The student text lacks references to the Catechism, so it is suggested that the catechist communicate to the student the Catechism references that are given in the catechist manual.

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RCL/BENZIGER – Confirmation: Filled with the Holy Spirit © 2007

I. GENERAL OVERVIEW:

This text is a series to be used with younger and older adolescents and contains eight (8) chapters: 1) Gathering as Church, 2) Proclaiming God's Word, 3) Renewing Baptismal Promises, 4) Laying on of Hands, 5) Anointing with Chrism, 6) Exchanging the Gift of Peace, 7) Sharing in the Eucharist, 8) Sending forth on Mission

II. SPECIFIC STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES:

CATEGORY	STRENGTH	WEAKNESS	COMMENT/EXPLANATION
<i>COMPATIBILITY WITH SATNDARDS</i>	X		This series is in conformity with our diocesan standards in all areas except it does not explicitly mention the virtues (although it often speaks of the importance of justice, living according to the values and priorities that Christ taught). It would be important to introduce the concept of virtues and discuss this in the classroom.
<i>PRAYER TOOLS & LITURGICAL TOOLS</i>	X		The structure of the whole series is based on the <i>Rite of Confirmation</i> with each chapter covering one part of the rite. There is also an appendix that outlines the <i>Rite of Confirmation</i> . There are also optional "opening rituals" and what will be experienced sacramentally when the candidates are confirmed by the bishop.
<i>CATECHISM & SCRIPTURE REFERENCE</i>	X	X	While there are an abundance of Scripture references as well as references to the documents of the Second Vatican Council, there are few references to the <i>Catechism of the Catholic Church</i> . Even in an appendix entitled "Key Teachings of the Catholic Church" no references to the <i>Catechism</i> are included.
<i>PARISH/SCHOOL COMPATIBILITY</i>	N/A		The website has suggestions of ways to incorporate this series into a school curriculum.

CATEGORY	STRENGTH	WEAKNESS	COMMENT/EXPLANATION
<i>FAMILY INVOLVEMENT</i>	X		At the end of each chapter in a section entitled “My Thoughts” the candidate is to reflect on what he/she has learned and journal. Included in this section is a question to discuss with their sponsor and parents. RCL also has a very good website which includes a family section. There is also a Program Director’s Manual which includes a variety of items to share with sponsors and parents.
<i>TEACHER RESOURCES</i>	X		The catechist manual is well done and the website is helpful.
<i>ASSESSMENT TOOLS</i>	X		A variety of assessment tools are available including online help.
<i>OTHER SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS</i>	X		See their website www.FaithFirst.com which has much to offer. This series also has a Sponsor Handbook to help involve sponsors in the preparation of the candidates.
<i>ONLINE RESOURCES</i>	X		Their website has much to offer.
<i>DIVERSITY FOR THE LEARNER (LEARNING STYLES, CULTURE, ETC.</i>	X		Traditional and ethnically diverse as well as racially diverse student and adult pictures are consistently integrated into the series. Diverse learning styles and methods are also used.
<i>APPEARANCE & FORMAT</i>	X		The text is attractive and well organized with lots of bright color and a lively appearance. It is user-friendly and pleasant.

III. SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ◆ It will be necessary to use this textbook series in conjunction with the diocesan policy for the Sacrament of Confirmation of the Curriculum Standards for Catechesis (see section IX)

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IGNATIUS PRESS –Spreading and Defending the Faith © 1990

I. GENERAL OVERVIEW:

This single volume text is intended for immediate preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. It covers: The Early Church, Confirmation the Sacrament, The Mystical Person-Christ and the Church, The Holy Spirit and Truth, Defending the Faith, Spreading the Faith, Responding to the Holy Spirit, and The Rite of Confirmation.

II. SPECIFIC STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES:

CATEGORY	STRENGTH	WEAKNESS	COMMENT/EXPLANATION
<i>COMPATIBILITY WITH STANDARDS</i>	X		Covers many of the Standards for immediate preparation for Confirmation. Needs more on God the Creator, communion of saints, eternal life, and conversion.
<i>PRAYER TOOLS & LITURGICAL TOOLS</i>	X		Contains a review of prayers. Describes the Rite of Confirmation.
<i>CATECHISM & SCRIPTURE REFERENCE</i>		X	Contains some Scripture references. No CCC references in either student text or teacher manual.
<i>PARISH/SCHOOL COMPATIBILITY</i>			Not relevant. Confirmation preparation programs are parish, not school, based in our diocese.
<i>FAMILY INVOLVEMENT</i>		X	No specific family/parent sections or resources. Suggestions for interviewing family members.
<i>TEACHER RESOURCES</i>	X		Teacher manual contains ideas for presenting the lessons.
<i>ASSESSMENT TOOLS</i>		X	None available.
<i>OTHER SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS</i>		X	A very short Suggested Resources listed in the back of the student and teacher books.
<i>ONLINE RESOURCES</i>		X	None.
<i>DIVERSITY FOR THE LEARNER (LEARNING STYLES, CULTURE,</i>	X		Provides a variety of activities for different learning styles.

CATEGORY	STRENGTH	WEAKNESS	COMMENT/EXPLANATION
<i>ETC.</i>			
<i>APPEARANCE & FORMAT</i>	X		Pleasing format; easy to read and follow. Text is broken up into newspaper format articles, sidebars, lists, etc. One drawback: some photos are out of date.

III. SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ◆ This text provides a useful guide for covering the standards. It is not a repeat of religious education; it is a preparation for the sacrament. Need to add more in some areas (see chart above for details).
- ◆ This text is intended for use with students being confirmed in junior high; however, it is presented in such a way that it is also appropriate for use with older students.