SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

SACRAMENTS: MASTERWORKS OF GOD

1. WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN?
   A Christian is a follower of Jesus Christ who is our Way, Truth and Life.

2. WHAT IS A SACRAMENT? WHAT IS THE GRACE OF GOD?
   A Sacrament is a sign (words and actions) instituted by Christ to give grace to our souls.
   The word “grace” means the “Life of God” which is freely given to us by the Spirit of God.

3. CAN YOU NAME THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS?
   The Seven Sacraments are:
   Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist, … Penance & Anointing of the Sick…
   Matrimony & Holy Orders.

SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

4. WHY DO WE CALL BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION AND HOLY EUCHARIST “SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION”?
   Initiation means “BEGINNING.”
   Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist “lay the foundations” for the Christian life.
   These three sacraments also mark the beginning of the life-long journey that is the Christian life.

5. HOW DO BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION & HOLY EUCHARIST LAY THE FOUNDATIONS FOR OUR CHRISTIAN LIFE?
   Christians are reborn in Baptism; strengthened in Confirmation; and nourished by the Holy Eucharist.

BAPTISM: GATEWAY TO LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

6. WHAT DOES THE WORD “BAPTISM” MEAN?
   “BAPTISM” means to plunge into water. Baptism may be celebrated by plunging the person in water, or by pouring water upon the head of the person.
7. HOW DOES THE CHURCH BAPTIZE?
   We baptize by pouring water upon the head of the person…and saying:
   “I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

8. DOES BAPTISM IMPART AN INDELIBLE MARK ON OUR SOUL?
   YES! BAPTISM marks or seals the New Christian with an indelible
   spiritual mark that no sin can erase.

9. HOW DO WE BECOME MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH?
   We become members of the Church, the Body of Christ, by Baptism.

   **WORD OF GOD AND THE SACRAMENTS**

10. DOES THE NEW TESTAMENT TELL US ABOUT BAPTISM?
    YES! The Gospels tell us that many people were baptized by John
    the Baptist and also by the Apostles.

11. DOES THE NEW TESTAMENT TELL US ABOUT CONFIRMATION?
    YES! The Acts of the Apostles tell us that the Holy Spirit was poured out
    upon the Apostles at Pentecost.

12. DOES THE NEW TESTAMENT TELL US ABOUT THE HOLY EUCHARIST?
    YES! The Gospels and St. Paul tell us that Jesus instituted the Holy Eucharist
    at the Last Supper on the night before He died.

   **CONFIRMATION: SACRAMENT OF SPECIAL STRENGTH**

13. WHAT IS THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION?
    Confirmation is the sacrament in which we are sealed (indelibly marked) and
    strengthened with the gift of the Holy Spirit.
    Like the Apostles, we are strengthened to spread and defend the faith by
    word and deed.

14. WHO MAY BE CONFIRMED?
    Every baptized person should receive the Sacrament of Confirmation,
    a sacrament of Christian initiation.

15. HOW DO WE PREPARE TO RECEIVE CONFIRMATION?
    We prepare to receive Confirmation in two ways. First, we must be baptized and
    free from serious sin. Second, we prepare by prayer, study and living a Christian life.

16. WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?
    The Holy Spirit is God, and equal to the Father and the Son.
    The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Holy Trinity.
    The Holy Spirit is the Lord and Giver of Life. (Nicene Creed)
17. WAS JESUS FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT?
   YES! When John the Baptist baptized Jesus in the Jordan River, the Holy Spirit came down upon Jesus.

18. DID THE HOLY SPIRIT COME DOWN UPON THE CHURCH?
   YES! The Holy Spirit came down upon the Church on Pentecost Sunday, fifty days after the Resurrection. The Holy Spirit will dwell within the Church until the end of time.

19. DID THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF THE APOSTLES?
   YES! The Apostles now became men of courage who preached the Gospel of Christ to the whole world.

20. HOW DO THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES DESCRIBE THE FIRST PENTECOST?
   The Apostles, Disciples, and Holy Women—including Mary—were gathered in the upper room in Jerusalem. They heard the sound like a strong, driving wind. Tongues of fire rested on each person. All were filled with the Holy Spirit.

   **HOW CONFIRMATION IS CELEBRATED**

21. WHO IS THE ORDINARY MINISTER OF CONFIRMATION?
   The Ordinary Minister of Confirmation is a Bishop, a successor of the Apostles. I will be confirmed by Bishop ______________________________.

22. HOW DOES THE BISHOP CONFIRM?
   First, the Bishop extends his hands over all persons to be confirmed and calls upon the Holy Spirit.
   Next, the Bishop lays his hand upon the head of each Candidate, anoints the forehead with the sacred chrism, and says:
   “(Name)_____________ be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.”
   The Candidate responds: “Amen.”
   Finally, the Bishop says: “Peace be with you.”
   The Candidate responds: “And also with you.”

23. WHY DOES THE BISHOP ANOINT IN THE FORM OF A CROSS?
   The Bishop anoints the forehead in the form of a cross to remind us that we belong to Christ, and that we must defend our faith and never be ashamed of the Cross.

24. WHAT IS SACRED CRISM?
   Chrism is the perfumed Oil of Anointing, blessed by a Bishop on Holy Thursday and used in Baptism, Confirmation & Holy Orders.
25. WHAT ARE THE SEVEN GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?
   The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit are …
   Wisdom, Understanding, Right Judgment, Courage, Knowledge, Reverence, and Fear of the Lord.
   Fear of the Lord means wonder and awe at the Majesty of God who is Holy, Holy, Holy.
   Wisdom means knowledge integrated with experience.
   Understanding means knowing the difference between right and wrong.

26. WHAT ARE THE TWELVE FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?
   The Twelve Fruits are…
   Charity, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Generosity, Gentleness, Faithfulness, Modesty, Self-Control and Chastity.

27. DOES CONFIRMATION IMPRINT AN INDELIBLE MARK ON THE SOUL?
   YES! This spiritual mark is called a Character, and shows that Jesus has marked a Christian with the seal of His Spirit.
   Baptism and Holy Orders also imprint an indelible mark.

28. WHAT IS THE ROLE OF A SPONSOR AT CONFIRMATION?
   The Sponsor helps the person confirmed to be a true witness of Christ and to live a Christian life.
   The Sponsor presents the Candidate to the Bishop, and the Sponsor places his or her right hand on the Candidate’s shoulder while the Bishop anoints the Candidate with Chrism.

29. WHY DO WE CELEBRATE CONFIRMATION WITHIN MASS?
   We celebrate Confirmation within Mass to show the unity of the Sacrament of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist.

30. WHAT ARE THE CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY?
   Feed the hungry
   Give drink to the thirsty
   Welcome the stranger
   Clothe the naked
   Visit the sick
   Visit those in prison
   Bury the dead
31. WHAT ARE THE SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY?
   Teach the ignorant
   Give advice to those who need it
   Comfort those who mourn
   Be patient with others
   Forgive those who hurt you
   Correct those who need it
   Pray for the living and the dead

32. WHY DO WE TAKE A SAINT’S NAME AT CONFIRMATION?
   The Saints of the Bible and the Church are persons who led lives of faithfulness
   to God, and showed great love for their neighbors
   For example: Sarah, Judith, Ruth, David, Mary, Peter, Paul, Patrick, Anthony,
   Francis, Katherine.
   Saints are models for us to follow in living the Gospel.

33. CAN YOU NAME THE FOUR MARKS OF THE CHURCH
   The Church; the People whom God gathers together, has four marks:
   One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic.
   The Church is One because she proclaims one Faith.
   The Church is Holy because Jesus is holy and because the Church
   teaches the way of holiness.
   The Church is Catholic (universal) because she proclaims the faith in all
   its fullness and reaches out to all people.
   The Church is Apostolic because she is built on the lasting foundation
   of the twelve Apostles.