



BACKGROUND FOR PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Who Is This Book For?

The All-Purpose, Hands-On Confirmation Director's Manual is for everyone who wants to design a Confirmation preparation program that meets the real needs of real people—teens, parents, and all concerned adults—in real parishes.

Together, we, the authors, have more than thirty-nine years of experience in youth ministry, including Confirmation preparation programs, total youth ministry programs, diocesan youth ministry consultation, and high school campus ministry. We have found that only rarely does a parish use a Confirmation program “as is” from the publisher. Most parishes have a program made up of bits and pieces from several different publishers and ideas from many sources, including the input of the creative persons working in the program. A Confirmation preparation program is tailored to the needs of a particular parish. Ultimately, a Confirmation director, working with the pastor and other concerned adults, must decide what will work best for the parish.

The All-Purpose, Hands-On Confirmation Director's Manual provides the information necessary to develop a new Confirmation preparation program for a parish or to improve an existing program. That includes a realistic look, in everyday language, at Church teaching on the sacrament and at the wisdom of experts on adolescent catechesis and development. Also included are outlines for retreats and for meetings with candidates, parents, and sponsors. Registration forms, permission slips, posters, and bulletin inserts may be reproduced directly from this book and used as they are. Many may also be adapted to fit particular situations from downloadable files that accompany this program.

Roles and Responsibilities

These roles and responsibilities may be adopted to fit your parish.

Candidate—person genuinely interested in becoming a fully initiated member of the Catholic Church

Responsibilities:

- attending the Parent and Candidate Entrance Meeting, Sponsor and Candidate Morning of Reflection, Sponsor and Candidate Retreat, Candidate Retreat, formation sessions, rehearsal, celebration of Confirmation
- participating in service work
- when ready, celebrating the sacrament of Confirmation
- after the celebration, sharing new knowledge and experience with the community

Sponsor—person who will support the candidate throughout his or her preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation and after

Responsibilities:

- attending Confirmation Sponsor Meetings, Sponsor and Candidate Morning of Reflection, Sponsor and Candidate Retreat, rehearsal, and celebration of sacrament of Confirmation
- following up on candidate's preparation process through discussions with the candidate
- working with the candidate to resolve any questions, concerns, or confusion that might arise during the preparation process
- sharing with the candidate his or her own experiences and struggles in the faith journey
- praying for the candidate's spiritual growth and decision concerning the celebration of Confirmation

Parent—person responsible for the candidate

Responsibilities:

- providing primary education of candidate in matters of faith
- being actively involved in the sacramental preparation of the candidate