

Confirmation/Eucharist (Restored Order) Parent Orientation

Goals

- To welcome parents and families in a hospitable environment
- To affirm the importance of parental and family participation in the process
- To inform parents and families about the **Call to Celebrate: Eucharist** program with the Confirmation component for Restored Order
- To inform parents and families about the parish policies and procedures relating to the celebration of Confirmation and First Communion

Environment

- Clearly identify the meeting place, posting clear directions if necessary
- Arrange tables and chairs for small groups
- Set up a prayer space with a large candle, a Bible on a stand, a clear bowl filled with water, and a branch or other instrument for sprinkling

Additional *Family Guide* pages for Restored Order sessions can be found at www.osvcurriculum.com.

Materials

- Beverages and light refreshments
- Nametags
- Copies of *Call to Celebrate: Eucharist Family Guide* and *Child's Book*
- Copies of the reproduced Restored Order Confirmation sessions from the *Catechist Edition*, pp. CE25–33 and pp. CE36–44
- Copies of the reproduced catechist pages, pp. CE23–24 and pp. CE34–35 (only for parents doing preparation in the home)
- *Songs of Celebration* CD
- *Eucharist Stories of Celebration* video and guide
- Copies of the following from www.osvcurriculum.com:
 - **Parent Orientation Restored Order Handouts 1 and 2**
 - “Restored Order”
 - “Celebrating Rituals at Home—Letter”
 - **At Home Ritual Preparation Handouts 1–10**

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Welcome parents and other adults and distribute nametags.

Introduce yourself and briefly review the goals and agenda for the gathering.

Gather the group around the prayer space, or have them pause for a reflective moment.

Begin the prayer by singing or listening to “Yes Lord, I Believe!” from the *Songs of Celebration* CD, track 7.

Light the candle and lead parents in the following reflection. Pause after each question:

- *Recall your own Confirmation day.*
- *Recall significant things that happened that day or during your preparation.*

Invite parents and family members to share with one or two other persons in the group any significant memories they have of their own First Communion. Distribute **Parent Orientation Restored Order Handout 1**.

Call the group back together and lead the parents and family members in the Parent's Prayer.

View Video

Show Parts 1 and 2 of the *Eucharist Stories of Celebration* video. Use the questions in the video guide for discussion.

Discuss Restored Order

Use the “Restored Order” article to highlight the important points of celebrating Confirmation before or with the reception of First Holy Communion.

Make the point that there are three Sacraments of Initiation, and full participation in the Eucharist is the fullness of initiation.

Break for refreshments and conversation.

The Call to Celebrate: Eucharist Program

Distribute the *Child's Book* and the reproducible child pages from the *Catechist Edition*, pp. CE25–33 and pp. CE36–44. Lead the parents and family members through the Table of Contents.

Point out that the program:

- introduces the child to an understanding of the Sacrament of Confirmation and the Eucharist.

- is a preparation for a lifetime of celebrating the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the gift of Jesus in the Eucharist.
- introduces children to both the Sacrament of Confirmation and the Sacrament of the Eucharist through rituals and prayers.

Use one chapter of the reproduced pages or the *Child's Book* to show parents and family members the process of a session:

Celebrate

- celebration and reflection

Remember

- proclamation and breaking open the Scripture reading
- teaching the doctrine
- learning about the ritual action of the sacrament

Live

- making connections to their lives and their families

Highlight the three Faith at Home features in the reproduced pages and the *Child's Book*.

Emphasize the importance of doing the activities on the Faith at Home page.

Describe the *Call to Celebrate: Eucharist Family Guide* using one of the two implementation models.

✦ For programs in which the catechesis is done in a group with a catechist and includes family support

Distribute the *Call to Celebrate: Eucharist Family Guide*. Point out the differences in the two parts:

- the first part is a reflection tool for parents.
- the second part is a guide for doing home preparation.

Mention the availability of the *Songs of Celebration* CD, which will enhance their time with the child and support the child's learning.

Distribute Restored Order Parent Orientation Handout 2 and go through the frequently asked questions with parents and family members.

Go to Parish Policies and Procedures.

✦ For programs in which the catechesis is done in the home

Distribute the *Call to Celebrate: Eucharist Family Guide* and the reproduced *Catechist Edition* pages for the two Confirmation sessions. Point out the difference in the two parts of the guide:

- the first part is a reflection tool for parents.
- the second part is a guide for doing home preparation.

Go through one session of the *Family Guide* and one of the reproduced Confirmation *Catechist Edition* pages, and explain how to use the outline. Point out:

- the parent background essay.
- the easy-to-follow overview.
- the People of Faith story for each session and the importance of telling these stories to children.

Emphasize how essential the ritual prayer is to the session. Go through the prayer as it is written in the session and talk about ways to prepare a prayer space and environment at home.

Distribute Restored Order Parent Orientation Handout 2, "Celebrating Rituals at Home—Letter," and At Home Ritual Preparation Handouts 1–10.

Parish Policies and Procedures

Explain the commitment the parish expects of parents and family members for this preparation.

Distribute appropriate schedules or calendars.

Closing Prayer

Gather the parents and family members in a circular grouping around the prayer space.

Begin with the Sign of the Cross, and say these or similar words:

Let us call to mind the goodness of God who gives us all good things. I bless you with this water to remind you of the gift of your Baptism and your call to hand on the faith. (Sprinkle the group with water.)

Sing "Yes Lord, I Believe!" from *Songs of Celebration* CD, track 7.

Pray the Lord's Prayer together.



Encourage parents and family members to go to www.osvcurriculum.com for more ideas and suggestions.