

Topic: Strengthen the Family / Promote the Culture of Life

Family Group for Confirmation Week 12 (December 4th, 2022)

Parent Resources

These resources are used in the lesson in some way. Parents, consider reading them before doing the lesson with your student. Otherwise, read them within the lesson with your student when directed to do so.

Catechism Readings: *Catechism for Adults*, Chapter 28 and 29

- “The Domestic Church” pg. 376-7

Confirmed in the Spirit:

- Christian Love pg. 41-42
- Christian Service pg. 42-43

Article: [The Family- The Building Block of Society](#)

1. Opening Prayer (read together)

Prayer from St. Francis of Assisi

Lord,
Make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith, where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy.
Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console,
To be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Amen.

2. Personal Connection

Parents- Reflect on then discuss the following:

What role does faith play in your family or family life? Why is it important to take care of the faith needs of your family as well as their physical and emotional needs?

After sharing, ask your student:

In what areas do you feel like your faith is strong?
How can your parents support your faith journey this year in Confirmation prep and beyond?

3. Activity

Build it Up!

For this activity you will need something to build with (blocks, cards, sugar cubes, marshmallows –anything–) and a timer. The objective is to find out who can build the tallest structure before time runs out!

Directions:

1. Make sure your building materials (blocks, cards, etc.) are accessible to everyone competing.
2. Set a one minute timer.
3. Race to build the tallest structure before the timer goes off.
4. When the timer sounds, determine your winner!
5. **But wait...there's more!** BEFORE tearing down your structures, do a quick sturdiness test. Shake the table, blow on them, find a way to determine the last structure standing. The last structure standing is the real winner!
6. After your competition, discuss the following:
 - a. Was the tallest structure *also* the sturdiest structure? Why or why not?
 - b. What role did a strong foundation play in the sturdiest structure?
 - c. What happens to buildings built on a weak or narrow foundation?
 - d. What happens to buildings built on broad, firm foundations?
 - e. The faith foundation you are laying at home right now is what your student will have to build their faith on past Confirmation and into adulthood, so is it any surprise that in the Catholic Church “the family home is rightly called “the domestic church”” (CCC, no. 1666) where children first learn the fundamentals of their faith?
 - f. As a family, reflect on the faith foundation you have already laid. In what ways is your faith foundation strong? What practices would help you grow your faith foundation from here?

4. Discussion Questions (writing down answers prior to discussion may encourage deeper conversations)

1. Read “The Domestic Church- The Church of the Home” (*Catechism for Adults* pg. 376-377) and fill in the following blanks. “The Christian family forms an _____ within which _____ is professed and _____.” What does this quote mean? How does your family fulfill it?
2. Read the article, “The Family – The Building Block of Society & Hope of the World.” Using what you learned in the Catechism and the article, discuss why families are fundamental to the Church.
3. How does our role in our family prepare us to become better participants in our Church? Community? World?
4. Read, “Christian Love” and “Christian Service” (*Confirmed in the Spirit* pg. 41-43). What does Jesus call us to do **and** why do you think that is?
5. Christian love and service is rooted in the fact that all humans have the same level of dignity like we discussed in the last Sunday Sanctuary Lesson on November 20th. What can you do to serve the underserved in your own community and live out Christian love and service?

WEEK SIX FOLLOW UP: Refer back to your Week Six “Find your Own Calcutta” activity. How did your implementation of the theological virtue of faith, hope, or charity/love go? How can you build on that plan to further promote human dignity through Christian service?

5. Closing

Sunday Sanctuary Lesson Reflection:

What moved you the most from Fr. Tilley’s or Fr. Rafael’s talk? How does the fact that all humans have the same dignity given to them by God affect how you think about others?

End in Prayer:

As a family, discuss your current prayer intentions and take a moment to pray together.