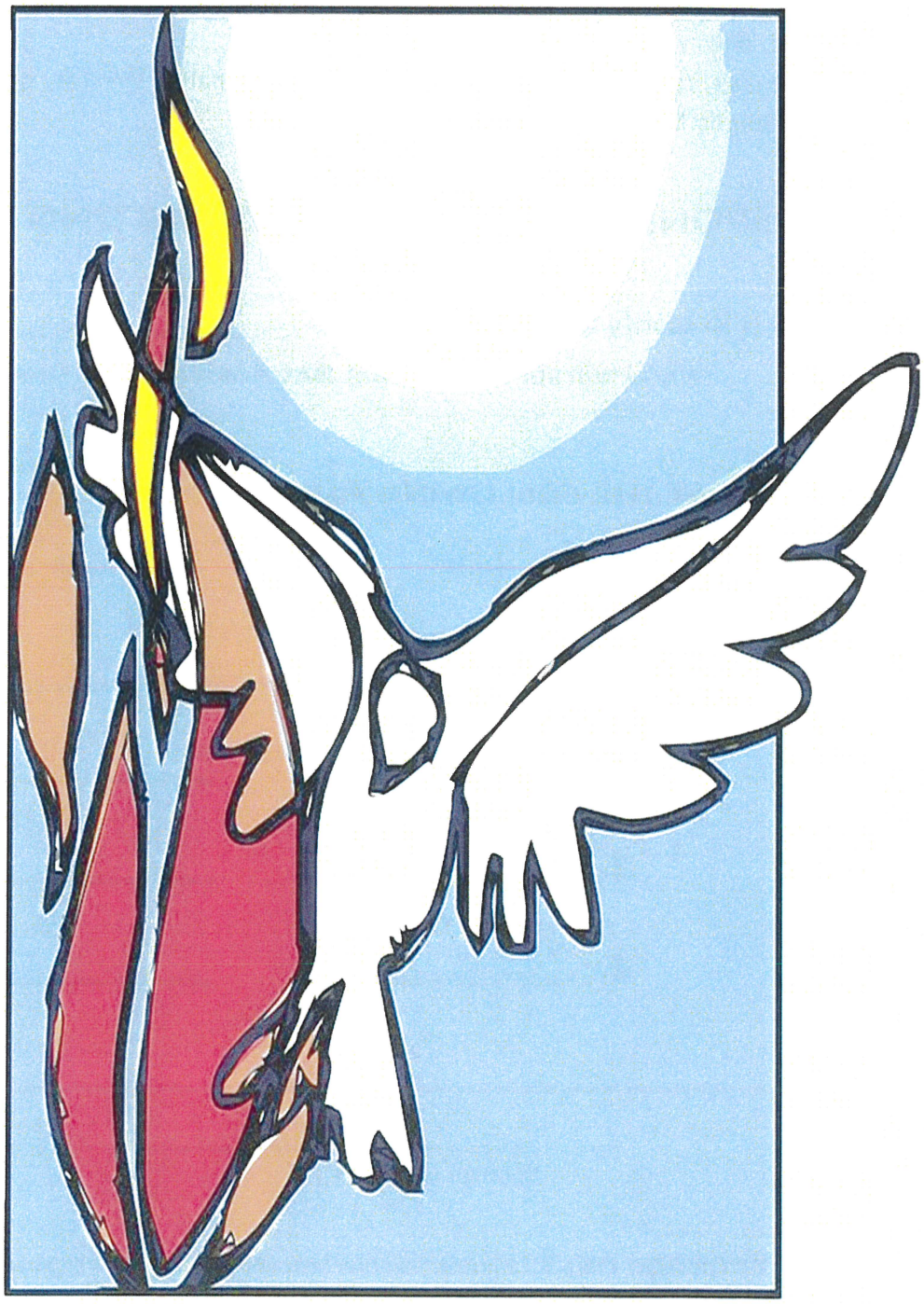
Sponsor – Candidate Faith Sharing

Parish: _____



Name _____

Sponsor / Candidate

INSTRUCTIONS:

Sponsor, when you have completed all 4 meetings,
tear this page from the booklet & hand it in to the Confirmation Director. (Sr. Karen)
(Candidates do NOT have to hand anything in.

SPONSOR – CANDIDATE MEETING SCHEDULE

This is to testify that I did meet with _____
who I will sponsor for the **SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION**.

WE MET AT THE FOLLOWING TIMES:

	Date	Time
1.	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____

_____
Sponsor Signature

SPONSOR ONLY: Please describe how you felt your meetings with your Candidate went.

+ PRAYERS +

Prayer to Holy Spirit

V. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.
R. And kindle in them the fire of your love.

V. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
R. And you shall renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray.
O God, by the light of the Holy Spirit
You have taught the hearts of your faithful.
In the same Spirit,
Help us to know what is truly right
And always rejoice in your consolation.
We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

Prayer to Holy Spirit - 2

Come, Holy Spirit, almighty sanctifier,
God of love who filled the Virgin Mary with grace;
Who wonderfully changed the hearts of the Apostles;
Who endowed all your martyrs with miraculous courage;
Come and sanctify us.
Enlighten our minds.
Strengthen our wills.
Purify our conscience.
Rectify our judgement.
Set our hearts on fire and
preserve us from the misfortune of resisting your inspirations.
Amen.

Prayer of Thomas Merton

My Lord God,
I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain
where it will end.
Nor do I really know myself,
and the fact that I think
that I am following your will
does not mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to love
as Christ loved does in fact please you.
And I hope I have that desire
in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything
apart from that desire.
And I know that if I do this
you will lead me by the right road
though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore, I will trust you always
though I may seem to be lost
and in the shadow of death.
I will not fear, for you are ever with me
and you will never leave me
to face my perils alone.

Thomas Merton
(1915 - 1969)

Prayer of John Henry Newman

God has created me
to do some definite service.
God has committed some work to me
which He has not committed to another.
I have my mission—I am a link in a chain,
a bond of connection between persons.
I have not been created for nothing.
I shall do good. I shall do God's work.
I shall be an angel of peace,
a preacher of truth in my own place,
while not intending it,
if I do but keep the commandments.
Therefore, I will trust in God.
Whatever, wherever I am,
I can never be thrown away.
If I am in sickness,
my sickness may serve God;
in perplexity,
my perplexity may serve God;
if I am in sorrow,
my sorrow may serve God.
God does nothing in vain,
but knows what all is about. Amen.

St. John Henry Newman
(1801-1890)

Prayer of Abandonment

Lord,
I abandon myself in your hands;
Do with me as You will.
For whatever You do I thank You...,
I am ready for all, I accept all.
Let only Your will be done in me,
and in all of your creatures.
I wish no more than this.

Into Your hands I commend my soul;
I offer it to You,
with all the love of my heart,
for I love You, Lord,
and so need to give myself,
to surrender myself into Your hands
without reserve
And with boundless confidence,
for You are my Father.
Amen.

Bl. Charles de Foucault
(1858 - 1916)

Prayers from the PSALMS for dependence on God

In every aspect of our human lives – our physical survival, our relationships to each other, our relationship to God – we are dependent on God. This human dependence on God is expressed in the Lord's Prayer in the phrases 'our Father', 'your kingdom come', 'your will be done', 'give us this day', 'forgive us our debts' and 'deliver us from the evil one'.

Use these Psalms to strengthen your dependence on God's power to save, protect and deliver.

Psalm 18:2,3 The LORD is my deliverer - the horn of my salvation.
I call to the LORD he saves me from my enemies.

Psalm 18:46-48 Exalted is God my Savior! He is the God who avenges me, who saves me from my enemies.

Psalm 19:14 O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.

Psalm 25:5,20,21 You are God my Savior, my hope is in you all day long.
Guard my life and rescue me; for I take refuge in you ... my hope is in you.

Psalm 27:1,5,9 The LORD is my light and my salvation - whom shall I fear? ... he will keep me safe in his dwelling, he will hide me in the shelter of his tabernacle ... Do not reject me or forsake me, O God my Savior.

Psalm 28:8 The LORD is ... a fortress of salvation for his anointed one ...

Psalm 32:7 You are my hiding place; you protect me from trouble & surround me with songs of deliverance.

Psalm 38:22 Come quickly to help me, O LORD my Savior.

Psalm 62:1,2 My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from him, He is my rock and my salvation.

Psalm 65:5 O God our Savior, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas ...

Psalm 68:19,20 Praise be the LORD, to God our Savior, who daily carrries our burdens.

Psalm 70:5 I am poor and needy; come quickly to me, O God. You are my help and my deliverer ...

Psalm 79:9 Help us, God my Savior, for the glory of your name; deliver me & forgive my sins for your name's sake.

Psalm 88:1 O LORD, the God who saves me, day and night I cry out to you.

Psalm 118:14,21 The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my savior ...
I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation.

Psalm 130:7 With the LORD is unfailing love & with him is full redemption. He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins

Psalm 144:2: He is my loving God and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer, my shield in whom I take refuge.

First Sponsor Meeting

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. Phil. 4

Topic: **Dependency**

Prayer: Our Father . . .

Read: **Matthew 5: 3**

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.

Commentary:

There are two ways of being poor. In this passage from the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew's Gospel, Matthew is not talking about poverty that comes from having no money or living in destitute conditions. The type of poverty that Matthew says brings true happiness - "blessed are they" means "happy are they" - is a different kind. For we all know that to be without material possessions is no guarantee of a joyous life. Perhaps a better word to substitute for "poverty" in this passage would be "dependency." We all know how good it is to be able to depend on people, such as family or friends. We may not often think about experiences of being dependent, yet we have these experiences all the time. For example, if it were not for your alarm clock or your mother or father you would not have awakened this morning on time. Or do you ever stop to think how dependent you are on the food you eat each day to keep your body healthy. We tend to take for granted so many things we rely on every day . . . Like Electricity, water from the faucet, your phone, your computer or laptop, TV. We rely on these all the time and are not even aware that we do.

In this brief passage from the Gospel, Matthew is talking about a spiritual dependency, a dependency on God. Some of us delude ourselves by thinking we are not dependent on anything or anyone . . . Not simply for material goods but for more important things as well. Have you ever stopped to think about that?

"Blessed are those who depend on God, for theirs is the kingdom of God."

On your own, complete the chart below and answer the question below the chart; then when you are both finished, discuss your answers together.

List 3 healthy dependencies in your life	**List 2 unhealthy dependencies in your life**
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	

- Give 2 examples of times when you have depended on God?
- When is it difficult for you to depend on God?
- What is 1 way you can depend on God in the next week?

Second Sponsor Meeting

Topic: Values

Prayer: PRAYER OF 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;
where there is sadness, joy.

Read: Matthew 13: 44 - 46

The Kingdom of heaven is like this. A man happens to find a treasure hidden in a field. He covers it up again, and is so happy that he goes and sells everything he has, and then goes back and buys that field. Also, the Kingdom of heaven is like this. A man is looking for fine pearls, and when he finds one that is unusually fine, he goes and sells everything he has, and buys that pearls.

Commentary These two short parable illustrate that the things we value we protect, sacrifice for, put in a place of priority ahead of everything else. Values can be not just material things, but ones beliefs and behaviors chosen freely after serious thought and consideration. When seriously considered, chosen and owned as valuable, we then become willing to publicly express and act on them.

List of values: List 7 values you have - things that are important to you, that you cherish, protects, sacrifice for, give priority to in your life.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

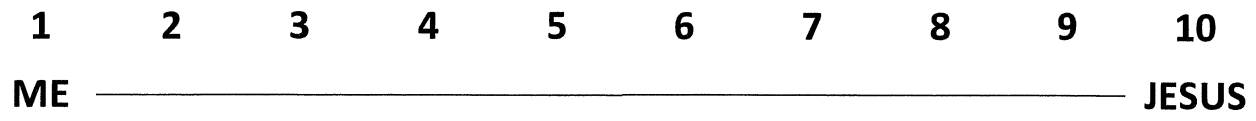
6.

7.

Jesus & Me

As those who have chosen to be Confirmed, one value we should grow toward is that of an ever-deepening relationship with Jesus and an understanding of the Holy Spirit and his working in your life. Complete the exercises below and then share with your Sponsor/Candidate.

On the chart below place your name on the point which best represents your closeness or distance from Jesus.



- Name 2 things you do that keeps your relationship with Jesus strong.

- Name 2 obstacles that keep you from a closer relationship with Jesus.

- An area about my relationship with Jesus that confuses me is:

- One way I know I could strengthen my relationship with Jesus is . . .

- How is the Holy Spirit important to your life? Share a specific time you were aware of the working of the Spirit in your life.

Close with the Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi.

Set the date & time for your next meeting.

Third Sponsor Meeting

Topic: Prayer life

1. Read: Matthew 6: 5 - 8

When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, who love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on street corners so that others may see them. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you. In praying, do not babble like the pagans, who think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them. Your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

Commentary: In this reading from Matthew, Jesus is stressing the difference between saying our prayers (reciting words) and praying (talking with God.). Reciting prayers is important, especially for communal prayer, but for us to really connect with God we must learn to "go to our inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father, who is unseen."

2. Sponsor & Candidate - share & discuss each of your answers to the following questions.
   - Do you believe that God is interested in you and what you do? Why or why not?

   - When do you pray?

   - If you believe that God "already knows what you need before you ask him," then what do you pray about? Why do you tell God about your needs?

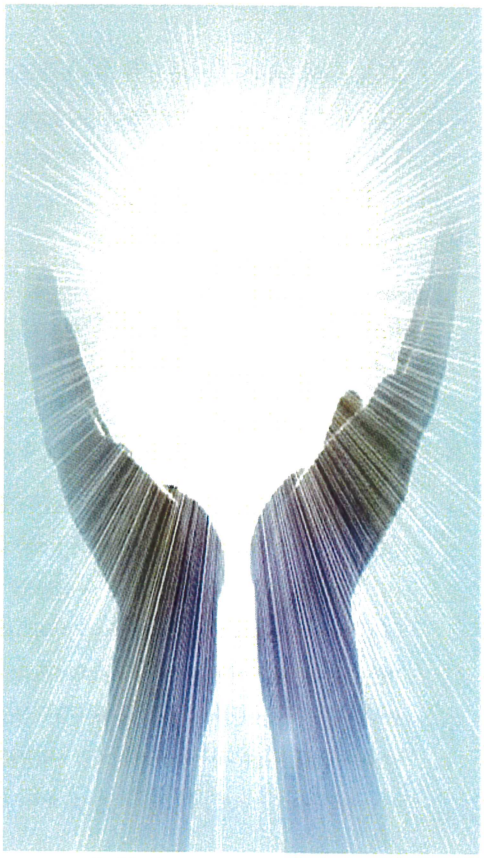
   - Where is your favorite place to pray?

   - Catholics believe the Mass is a Catholic's primary communal prayer. Why is that? Do you believe that?

3. One prayer form is that of writing.

SPONSORS - Write a prayer below for your candidate.

CANDIDATES - Write a prayer below telling God why you want to be Confirmed.



4. Close with a prayer using the prayers you both wrote above.

Set a date and time for your last meeting.

Fourth Sponsor Meeting

Topic: Commitment

Begin with a prayer . . . One of your own choosing.

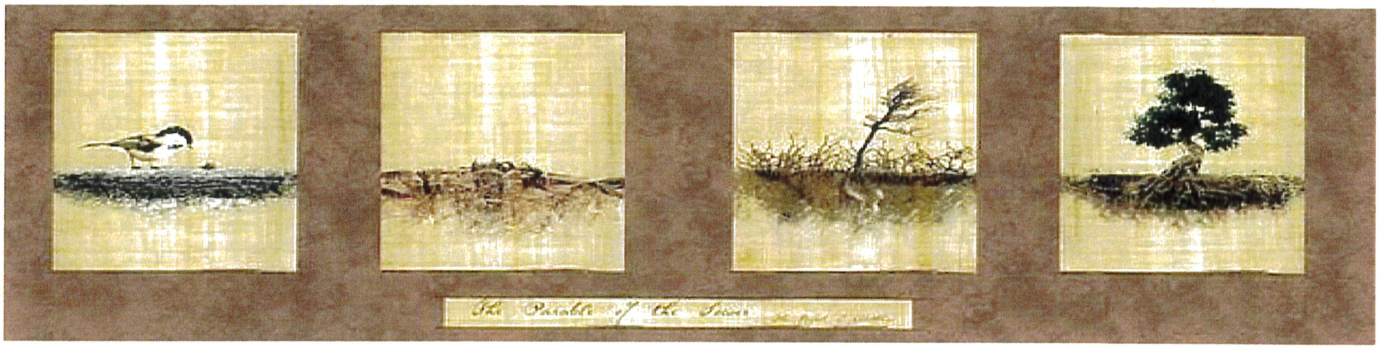
Read: Matthew 13: 1 - 9 and 18 - 23

The same day Jesus left the house and went to the lakeside where he sat down to teach. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it, while the crowd stood on the shore. He used parables to teach them many things.

There was a man who went out to sow. As he scattered the seed in the field, some of it fell along the path, and the birds came and at it up. Some of it fell on rocky ground, where there was little soil. The seeds soon sprouted, because the soil was not deep. When the sun came up it burned the young plants, and because the roots had not grown deep enough, the plants soon dried up. Some of the see fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. But some seeds fell in good soil; some had one hundred grains, others sixty and others thirty.

And Jesus concluded, "Listen, then, if you have ears! Listen then and learn what the parable of the sower means. Those who hear the message about the Kingdom but do not understand it are like the seed that fell along the path. The Evil One comes and snatches away what was sown in them. The see that fell on rocky ground stands for those who receive the message gladly as soon as they hear it. But it does not sink deep in them, and they don't last long. So when trouble or persecution come because of the message, they give up at once. The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear the message, but the worries about this life and the love for riches choke the message, and they don't bear fruit. And the see sown in good soil stands for those who hear the message and understand it; they bear fruit, some as much as one hundred, others sixty, and others thirty.

Commentary: Commitment is the name of another challenge. Many people today want to avoid being pinned down about anything. But because of our Baptism into our Catholic faith, we become members of a community, members of the Body of Christ, who support, nourish and strengthen one another so that we can "bear fruit." Confirmation is a sealing of the Baptismal promises made by our parents. It is a completion of our initiation into the Catholic Church.



Answer the following questions and share your answers:

1. What kind of soil do you see yourself as? Why?

2. What do you need to do to strengthen your relationship with God?
   (Pray, study your faith, reconcile a relationship, let go of a sinful habit, etc.)

Sponsor, ask your candidate:

Do you feel you are ready to make the commitment to God that Confirmation entails?

Do you feel you are ready to make the commitment to the Church that Confirmation entails?

How do you intend to live the life of a fully initiated Catholic Christian?

What gifts, talents and abilities has God given you?

How do you intend to use your gifts, talents and abilities to serve others?

Close with a prayer.