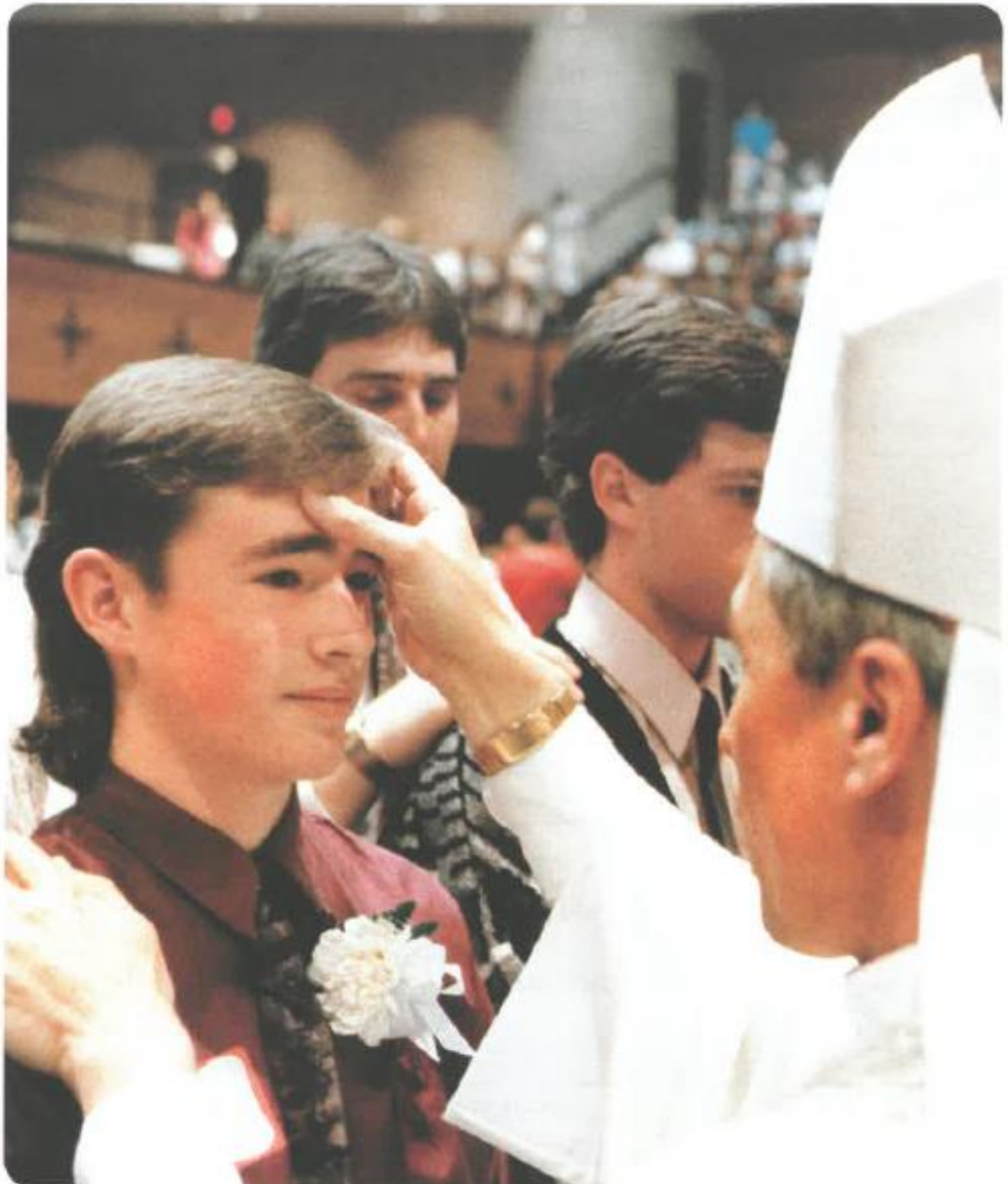




SESSION 5

Looking Forward to the Celebration of Confirmation





OPENING PRAYER

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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

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



To stay organized during our time together, keep your list here so you know what you need and when you need it.

Organizer Chart

<i>What I need</i>	<i>When I need it</i>

The next time we will see each other is _____ at
date / time

_____ for
location

_____ for
a retreat / our last session / Confirmation

TELL ME A STORY



Have your parent or caregiver tell you what they are most looking forward to about your Confirmation.



In this preparation session, we'll look at:

1. Practical matters: when to arrive, where to sit, what sponsors should know
2. How the Mass will unfold
3. What the actual Confirmation will look like

Any other details:

4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

THINKING ABOUT THE MASS

What makes a good celebration of the Mass for you?



Mood or Feeling
Music Readings Homily
Communion Dismissal

Some Responses to Practise



The Lord be with you.

R. And with your Spirit.

Whenever you hear this:

“Through Christ our Lord ...” it’s a clue that it’s the end of a prayer.

R. Amen.

The Bishop* or priest will say, *“May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.”*

He will make the sign of the cross with his hand towards the congregation.

You make the sign of the cross on yourself as usual and respond, “Amen.”

If the homily is a dialogue, where the Bishop* or priest asks questions,

- **Stay calm**
- **Respond clearly**
- **Enjoy! How often do you get to chat with a Bishop?**

* Normally, a Bishop presides at Confirmation, so most likely, it will be a Bishop presiding at your Confirmation. In special circumstances, a Bishop can give permission to another priest to confirm.

THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION

We have heard God's word.

The Candidates (that's you!) are presented to the Bishop.

The Bishop gives his homily. Three important and ancient rites now take place. For centuries, those wishing to enter fully into the Catholic Church have professed their faith, have received the laying on of hands, and have been anointed.

Candidates renew their Baptismal promises

These are the basic statements of what the Church believes and passes down through the generations. **Do you believe?** Your answer should be clear: **I DO. Let's practise.**

Faith Fact:
These are the same promises your parents and godparents made at your Baptism.

Faith Fact:

Remember epiclesis from Session 2? The priest puts his hands over the bread and wine and calls upon the Holy Spirit. That bread and wine are forever changed in that moment to be the Body and Blood of Christ. In Confirmation, the Bishop will place his hands over you and call upon the Holy Spirit, and you will be forever changed in that moment. You receive the power of the Holy Spirit to bear witness to Jesus Christ.

The Laying on of Hands

Priests and Bishops give blessing by laying their hands on a person's head or by extending their hands over the person. This happens at Baptism, at Confirmation, in the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, and at ordination. This action is accompanied by a prayer to the Holy Spirit, which calls the Spirit upon the person.

The laying on of hands is a very old tradition in the Bible. God's hand brings protection and comfort (for the prophet Ezra, for example: see Ezra 7:28) and raises us up (as Peter tells us in 1 Peter 5:6).

Later, the Apostles laid hands on people who were turning their lives over to Christ and becoming leaders in the Church (see the Acts of the Apostles, chapter 6). Look what a long tradition you belong to!

The Anointing with Chrism

Chrism is our most sacred oil. We use oil to strengthen people preparing to become Christian. (This is the oil of Catechumens.) We use oil to strengthen the sick. (This is the oil of the Sick.) Chrism strengthens us to be more like Christ.

Faith Fact:
We become more like Christ so we can better show Christ to the world!

Sacraments:

Signs, Symbols, Actions and Responses

What you will do

- You walk up to the Bishop in procession
- You come forward as a sign of your readiness and your acceptance

What you will say

- You will declare your name (this may be your baptismal name or, if it is the custom in your diocese, it may be the name of a saint you have chosen)

What you will feel

- Your sponsor's hand on your shoulder. Your sponsor is both a real support to you and a sign of the support of the whole Catholic community.
- The Bishop anointing your forehead



What you will smell

- Smell? Yes! One of the ways that Chrism is made special is by being mixed with balsam, which perfumes the oil and makes it smell sweet.

What you will hear and respond

- These beautiful words of the Bishop:
*Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.*
Peace be with you.
And with your spirit.



FACE2FACE

What did you learn about Confirmation at this session that was new to you?

You **WILL** receive God's grace in a special way at your Confirmation.

We hope that this time of preparation will help you to feel open to that grace. Try writing a short prayer to ask God to help you to be open to the marvellous work he is already doing in your life and the wonders he has planned for you.

MY THOUGHTS

Hint: A good way to write a prayer is to think of this formula: **A-C-T-S**.

I make a statement so God knows I **A**DORE him.

I **C**ONFESS – that means I am sorry for when I have not done my best.

I **T**HANK God.

I make a **S**UPPLICATION – that means I ask for something I really need, like courage or openness or a spirit of forgiveness.

End with **A**men.

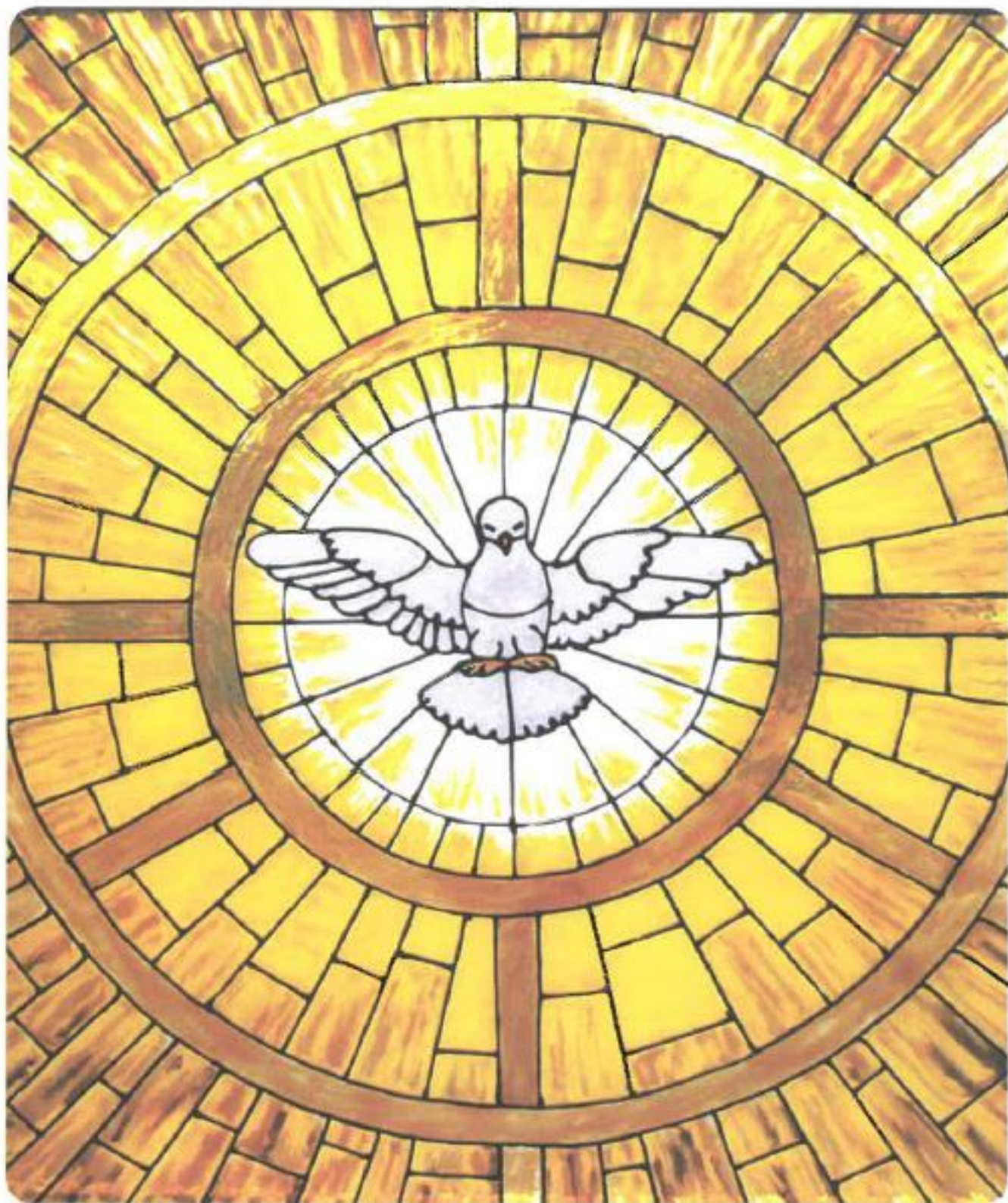
A _____

C _____

T _____

S _____







THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

In Confirmation, we receive the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. Choose from the list below the names of those gifts. Write them on the lines provided. Be careful! There are some words here that don't belong!



Word List

Knowledge, Tennis lessons, Humility, Right judgment, Peace, Joy, Courage, Wisdom, Understanding, Happiness, Reverence, Fear of doing wrong, Wonder and awe, Charity

Gifts are meant to be opened, seen, enjoyed and used!

