

First Communion Lesson 16 – Confirmation

Opening Prayer:

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. O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit, we may be truly wise and ever rejoice in His consolations, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Opening:

This lesson is about the sacrament of Confirmation. To help students get a sense of the power of the sacrament at the start of the lesson, begin with the following story about a third century soldier named Marinus:

In the year 264, a soldier in the Roman army named Marinus, was turned in for being a Christian, which was punishable by death at the time. When it was discovered that Marinus was a Catholic, he was offered a promotion in the army if he would deny his faith, or death if he remained faithful to Christ. Marinus was given three hours to decide. He was understandably scared and called for his bishop. The bishop administered the sacrament of Confirmation to Marinus and then offered him a sword and a book of the Gospels and told him to choose one. Marinus, with strength from the Holy Spirit, chose the Gospels. He received a martyr's death, and also a martyr's reward.

Let students know that the sacrament of Confirmation doesn't magically take away fear, but it does give us strength. The grace we receive in this sacrament gives us the weapons we need to fight for God in the battle of good versus evil, and to persevere in faith.

Read First Communion Chapter 16 on CatholicBrain

Comprehension Questions:

- 1) What battle is going on all around us?

Good versus evil

- 2) When we are confirmed, whose army do we join?

God's

- 3) Who usually blesses us with oil when we are confirmed?

The bishop (a priest can do it with the bishop's permission)

- 4) Who do we receive special gifts from at Confirmation?

The Holy Spirit

- 5) What kind of weapons do we receive at Confirmation?

Spiritual weapons

Discussion Questions:

- 1) What are some spiritual weapons you need to fight in God's army?

Answers may vary; they don't need to only mention the seven gifts we receive at Confirmation. They might mention love, courage, patience, etc. Perhaps contrast spiritual weapons like these with physical weapons like guns, swords, tanks, etc.

2) What types of things will Confirmation give us the strength to do?

Stand up for what is right; fight against evil; resist sin; lead other people to God, etc.

Activity:

Get creative – imagine you are a missionary, teaching people about Jesus, who have never heard of Him before. Think about what kind of challenges and dangers you would face, and what adventures you would have. Then, write a letter home to your parents about how you are fighting to bring God’s love to people. If there’s time, students can draw a picture to go along with their letter, or just do a drawing if the writing is too difficult.

Closing Prayer:

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.