

**HOLY CROSS PARISH**  
**CONFIRMATION FAITH-SHARING PROJECT #3**  
**"Signs of Love"**  
**Due March 31st**

CANDIDATE: \_\_\_\_\_ MENTOR: \_\_\_\_\_

**Before Meeting with your Mentor**

Schedule a 60-90 minute meeting time to be conducted in person.

Items needed: This packet, pens or pencils, a bible.

**Meeting Details**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Place: \_\_\_\_\_

**1. Opening Prayer**

*Hands--*

- *are life-giving, nourishing, welcoming.*
- *are comforting, forgiving, accepting of forgiveness.*
- *share gifts with others, serve those in need, are moved by the Spirit.*
- *are healing--mending our brokenness, making us well.*
- *are joined together in love, wearing promises in bands of gold, holding on in good and bad times.*
- *help in ministering to others, sharing the sacraments, witnessing the Gospel message.*
- *break bread, share the wine, reach out and welcome the body and blood of Christ into our heart.*

**2. Discussion Question**

How has your participation and/or attitude towards Mass changed throughout your life?

**3. Faith Focus Question:** What does the word *sacrament* mean to you? Share thoughts aloud.

**4. Signs of Love Reflection and Discussion**

Fill in the attached **Signs of Love** worksheet individually.

Discuss your answers.

Item #1: The Catholic Church's seven sacraments celebrate special life moments: birth, Sunday meals, marriage, forgiveness, sickness, commitment to serve. In the actions that each sacrament celebrates, Jesus acts among us. Share a story about a sacrament that you have not received yet, but have witnessed others receiving.

Item #2: The Sacraments of Initiation are Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation. Once we are fully initiated into the Catholic Church, what keeps "feeding" us for our life's faith journey? (Hint: It's one of the Sacraments of Initiation). Why is it important to keep being "fed"?

The Sacraments of Healing are Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick. How have you experienced healing with one or both of these sacraments? Name one area of your life where you are in need of healing.

The Sacraments of Service are Marriage and Ordination. They celebrate the Christian vocation of service and call us to minister within our own family and within the wider Church community. Though not sacraments, two other vocations recognized by the Catholic Church are single life and religious life (as a professed sister or brother). What value does society put on each of these vocations?

Item #3: The Bible does not have the word *sacrament* in it. While Jesus directly refers to the Sacraments of Eucharist and Baptism (the correct answers), Catholics believe that the other five are implied in Jesus' life, death and resurrection. We believe that Jesus left it to the Church to decide what symbols it would use to express what Jesus did when he was living and which Jesus continues to do now. Why did we as Catholics create the sacraments?

Item #4: How did you do? Check your answers: Baptism = holy water; Confirmation = hands and oil (chrism); Eucharist = bread and wine; Reconciliation = words of absolution and the sign of the cross; Anointing of the Sick = oil; Ordination = hands; Marriage = promises.

Refer back to the opening prayer. What sacrament does each phrase refer to? How are hands symbols for each of the sacraments?

Item #5: Why is the sacrament you've ranked as #1 the MOST important in your life right now? Why is your #5 ranking LEAST important to you right now? Which sacrament do you think will become MORE important to you in the future? Why?

## 5. Project Summary

Sacraments are signs of God's love, ongoing and continuous sources of strength and celebrations of the community. Our sacraments are symbolic WE do, filled with meaning...in the Sacraments we, the Church, point to what we believe GOD is doing.

For example: when we baptize a child, we believe God is initiating this child into his Church, naming this child as God's own, pouring God's Spirit into this child, and washing away all sin. We point to this and celebrate it when we baptize. God does not need sacraments: God can do a lot of things for us without sacraments. **BE** WE need to do sacraments: we need to see, hear, touch, taste, feel and share what God is doing in us and in others...so that we can have courage and strength to do God's work and build a better world.

**SO**...the sacraments belong to the Church and the Church decides who can do them, when, where, and how.

Pretend that you are a parish priest. What would you do in each of the following situations:

A young couple that does not attend Mass, seldom prays, and has no intention of giving their marriage to God comes to you and wants a church wedding. Should you marry them? Why or why not?

The same couple has a child. They want their child baptized but have no intention of raising the child as a Catholic. Should you baptize the child? Why or why not?

A classmate of yours is in the Confirmation preparation process. He skips the retreat, does half of the faith sharing projects, and doesn't do any of the service projects. He is getting confirmed because his parents want him to. Should he be confirmed? Why or why not?

### **What Can We Do?**

We are called to **ACTION!** Choose one of the suggestions below or think of another on your own that relates to this topic. **NOTE:** You can discuss the results of your action with your mentor when you meet for your next project.

### **Suggestions**

- Become a prayer companion for a second grader preparing for First Eucharist.
- Write a letter of encouragement and support to adults who are in the preparation process to join the Catholic Church at Easter.
- Send a card congratulating a family who baptized their children this month. Welcome the child to the Catholic Church and parish community of Blessed Sacrament.
- Spend some time reflecting on an area in which you need healing and then go to confession.
- Think about which of the four vocations you may be called to.

NOTES:

## **Closing Prayer**

Dear Father,

Through baptism we are called to teach all people. In the Eucharist, we receive the life of your Son to share. Confirmed with the gifts of the Spirit, we are prepared to do your work. Make us ministers, using these gifts and blessings to proclaim the good news of salvation. AMEN.

## **LOOKING BACK**

Complete these sentences:

One thing I learned about my Mentor/my candidate during this session was...

One thing I discovered about myself during this session was...

After this session, one thing I like about the Catholic Church is...

# SIGNS OF LOVE

**ITEM 1:** Fill in the outline below with the names of the seven sacraments.

## SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

## SACRAMENTS OF SERVICE

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

## SACRAMENTS OF HEALING

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

**ITEM 2:** Create your own sacramental history by identifying when, where, and with whom you celebrated these sacraments. Include the date, the place, names of important people who shared your day with you, and your special memories of the event. Leave blank any you have not received.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MY BAPTISM</b></p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MY FIRST COMMUNION</b></p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MY FIRST CONFESSION</b></p> 
Date:	Date:	Date:
Place:	Place:	Place:
Names:	Names:	Names:
Memories/Stories:	Memories:	Memories:

**ITEM 2: My Sacramental History continued...**

<b>MY CONFIRMATION</b> 	<b>MARRIAGE</b> 	<b>HOLY ORDERS</b> 
Date:	Date:	Date:
Place:	Place:	Place:
Names:	Names:	Names:
Memories:	Memories:	Memories:

<b>ANOINTING OF THE SICK</b> 
Date:
Place:
Names:
Memories:

**ITEM 3:** Look up the following Bible verses, read them, and write down which sacrament they are referring to.

Luke 22:19-20 \_\_\_\_\_

John 3:5 \_\_\_\_\_

**ITEM 4:** Below is a chart about the sacraments. Review it carefully. In the second column, marked “Symbolic Action”, please underline the item(s) or word(s) used as symbols during each ceremony.

SACRAMENT	SYMBOLIC ACTION	THE EXPERIENCE	IMPORTANCE
Baptism	Pouring on or immersion in water.	Receiving the life of grace and being welcomed into the church.	
Confirmation	Laying on of hands and anointing with oil.	Receiving the Holy Spirit and accepting the gift of faith.	
Eucharist	Eating bread and drinking wine in community.	Receiving Jesus as our life-giving food and drink. Belonging to the one Body of Christ, the Church.	
Reconciliation	Asking for and pronouncing words of absolution. Making the sign of the cross.	Receiving God’s forgiveness and accepting the grace God gives us to change our patterns of sin.	
Anointing of the Sick	Anointing the person on hands and forehead with oil.	The healing power of Jesus who consoles and strengthens, restores the sick to health, and eases suffering.	
Ordination	Laying on of hands by the ordaining bishop.	The loving response and dedication of those chosen to continue God’s work.	
Marriage	The loving exchange of vows by husband and wife in their total commitment to one another.	God’s presence to us in and through the love of another person, the creative, life-giving power of God.	

**ITEM 5:** For the sacraments you have already received, compare your actual experience with your adult understanding of the significance of the event. How are they different?

**ITEM 6:** How important are the sacraments to you right now? In the blank column marked “Importance”, rate each sacrament with a number from 1 (most important) to 5 (least).



(MENTOR'S COPY)

# SIGNS OF LOVE

**ITEM 1:** Fill in the outline below with the names of the seven sacraments.

## SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

- 4. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. \_\_\_\_\_

## SACRAMENTS OF SERVICE

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_

## SACRAMENTS OF HEALING

- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_

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Date:	Date:	Date:
Place:	Place:	Place:
Names:	Names:	Names:
Memories/Stories:	Memories:	Memories:

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Date:	Date:	Date:
Place:	Place:	Place:
Names:	Names:	Names:
Memories:	Memories:	Memories:

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