

HOLY CROSS PARISH
CONFIRMATION FAITH SHARING PROJECT #4
“Ending But Beginning”
Due April 30th

CANDIDATE: _____ MENTOR: _____

Before Meeting

Schedule a time and a place to meet. Bring this packet, a pen, and a bible.

Meeting Details

Location: _____ Time: _____ Date: _____

1. Opening Prayer

Life giving Spirit, I am ready to take another step on my journey. I can barely see the point from which I started and I cannot yet see the place where I may rest. I am ready to take another step.

There have been obstacles, including myself. There have been wrong turns, down one-way streets where I followed others. I am learning to listen and trust in your word and I am ready to take another step.

I am not alone, and must not forget about others. My burden is less and my benefit greater when we walk together knowing everyone counts.

I am ready to take another step.

Amen.

2. Begin with a Discussion

What does it mean to be on a journey?

3. Faith Focus Question

Our faith journey begins at birth and ends when we die. We have an ongoing need to walk the journey of faith with fellow believers who can encourage, support, and challenge us. In what ways has your faith changed over your lifetime? Create a timeline highlighting significant events in your life where your faith has had a special impact. Share about the important people who helped you walk your journey of faith.

4. Ending, But Beginning Discussion and Activity

Complete individually and share your responses to the **Ending But Beginning** worksheet.

Once you are fully initiated into the Catholic Church through the sacrament of Confirmation, you will be expected to live out your confirmation by regular practice of sacramental life, involvement in and service to the community, and ongoing religious education throughout adult life. This is your commitment as a confirmed member of the Catholic Church. Living out your confirmation will take the rest of your life as we are on a life-long journey of faith. How is the confirmation process an ending, but also a beginning for you?

5. **The Poor Man in Search of a Dream Story and Discussion.** Answer the questions below in response to this story.

The Poor Man in Search of a Dream

By Beldon C. Lane

Storytelling: The Enchantment of Theology

Long, long ago, a desperately poor man yearned to escape the agony of his wretched existence. He dreamed of a magical heavenly city far away where all his pain would be dispelled and all his wishes fulfilled.

One day, with some fear but also with great hope, the poor man decided to go in search of the magical city of his dreams. With little regret, he kissed his wife and children goodbye, left his miserable home, and began his journey.

The man walked all morning and through the heat of midday. Near nightfall he decided to stop. He ate a crust of bread, said his prayers to Yahweh, and prepared to sleep. In his simple innocence, he took off his shoes and placed them directly in the middle of the path on which he had been walking, carefully pointing the shoes in the direction he had been traveling. In this way he felt sure that the next day he would begin his walk in the proper direction toward the magical city of his dreams.

While the poor man slept, a practical joker passed by the spot and came upon the shoes on the path. The joker turned the shoes around so that they were pointing back toward the direction from which the poor man had come. When he awoke the next morning, the man thanked Yahweh for the gift of a new day, ate another crust of bread, and resumed his trek to the heavenly city of his dreams.

The man walked throughout the morning and through the heat of midday. Finally as evening fell, he looked off into the distance, and his heart leapt as he saw the skyline of the magical city. The city was not nearly as large as he had expected it to be. In fact, it seemed vaguely familiar. Yet, with great expectation, the man passed through the gates. As he walked through the city he came upon a street that looked strangely like the one on which he used to live. He walked down the street, and came upon a house that looked very much like the one he had left. He knocked on the door of the home, greeted with great affection the woman and children who lived there, and lived happily ever after in the heavenly city of his dreams.

- a) How does the man find his personal happiness? Describe the events of his journey.
- b) What does the man leave behind? Who does he talk to on his journey?
- c) What does the joker do for the man in the story?
- d) How does this story relate to your own faith journey?

6. What can we do now?

Between now and confirmation, write a letter to your mentor. Summarize your experience journeying together as a team. Describe the gifts you see, how you have helped one other on your faith journey, and describe how you have grown in your faith.

Closing Prayer

O Great Spirit, guide me on my path,
Let my heart flower like a meadow of wisdom,
Fill my soul with the breath of your greatness,
Quench my thirst with the rain of love,
Make my body dance to the rhythm of earth's heartbeat,
and give me the strength of northern winds.
So as I journey through life,
I may always praise you and
Live in a peaceful harmony with your creation.

Amen.

Looking Back

Please 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...

Ending But Beginning Worksheet *for Candidate*

Now that you are near the end of the preparation process for confirmation, it is time to reflect upon how you will develop and live your faith in the future. Please respond to the statements that follow and discuss your responses with your mentor.

1. As a confirmed Catholic you bear the responsibility of setting an example of the faith to others. How will you live your faith? Some examples of how you might live your faith include attending and participating in the Mass, receiving the sacraments, serving on parish councils and attending parish events.

2. As a confirmed Catholic you will be expected to be able to testify to the truths of the faith. How do you plan to learn more about your faith in the years to come? Examples might include bible study or small group faith sharing groups, seeking advice from your mentor, listening carefully to homilies, or reading Catholic literature.

3. As a confirmed Catholic, you may receive the sacrament of Marriage in the church someday. Should you be blessed with children, how do you foresee passing the Catholic faith to them?

Ending But Beginning Worksheet *for Mentor*

Now that you are near the end of the preparation process for your candidate's confirmation, it is time to reflect upon and share how you have lived your faith. Please respond to the statements that follow and discuss your responses with your candidate.

1. As a confirmed Catholic you bear the responsibility of setting an example of the faith to others. How have you lived your faith? Some examples might include attending and participating in Mass, receiving the sacraments, serving on parish councils, and attending parish events.

2. As a confirmed Catholic you are expected to accurately testify to the truths of the faith. Since your own confirmation how have you developed your knowledge? Some examples include bible study or small group faith sharing groups, seeking advice from parish Priest or other leaders in the church, listening carefully to homilies, or reading Catholic literature.

3. As a confirmed Catholic, you are expected to pass the faith to others, including your own children and grandchildren. If you have your own children and have passed the faith to them, please share some stories about how you have done this. If you do not have your own children or grandchildren, please share a story about how you have passed the faith to someone younger than you (a sibling or a younger friend).