

THE CONFIRMATION ISLANDS

Rise of the Confirmands

Confirmation Preparation

Confirmation is the rite of passage that leads to full membership in the Catholic Church.

Confirmation preparation at Confirmation Islands isn't easy and you must have a pure heart to succeed.

Not everyone will make it.

For those that do, the reward is great.



Confirmation Islands' Cast



Dragona, guardian of the Confirmation Islands.
Dragona roams the Islands as a dragon or in disguise as a human being. Dragona is in charge of Island online security and has the power to eject from the Islands those who do not follow Island rules.



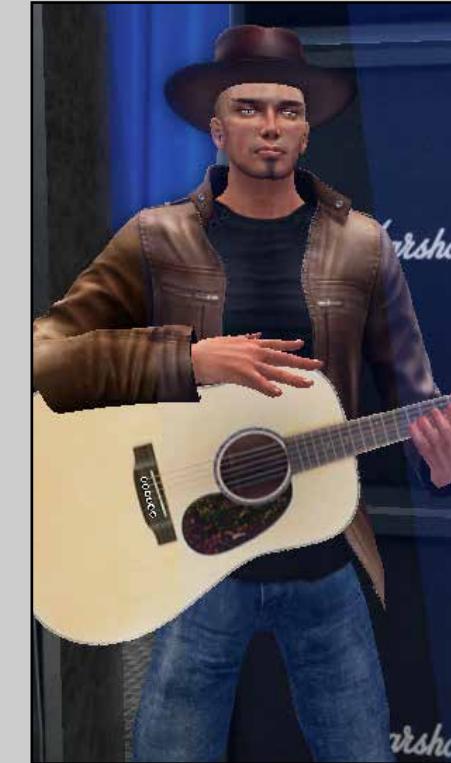
Lilah, mother of the Dragons. Lilah is also the ruler of the five Confirmation Islands. She is on the lookout for three qualified confirmands to take over her rule of the Islands when she gives up her throne.



Father Francis, pastor of the Confirmation Islands. Father Francis leads the confirmand group discussions and spiritual accompaniment on the Islands. He can be called upon by IM (Instant Message) to answer any questions related to confirmation preparation.



Romah, keymaster of the Confirmation Islands. Romah has the power to be at more than one place at a time. This enables him to help all confirmands find their confirmation preparation reading assignments, group discussion locations and interactive activities.



Stalign, troubadour of the Confirmation Islands. Stalign is the poet laureate, songwriter and gospel lay minister of the Islands. He has hidden throughout the Islands (for confirmands to discover) numerous notecards about saints, scripture and sacred traditions.



You and your classmates, are the confirmands of the Confirmation Islands. In parishes where it is difficult for confirmation instructors and their students to meet face-to-face during the weekday, they can meet -- avatar-to-avatar -- in the Confirmation Islands online.

Confirmation Islands' Legend

1. **Lighthouse of the Seven Gifts**
2. **Stage:** home of Confirmation.Rocks
3. **Plaza of Catholic Social Thought**
4. **Church of the Transfiguration**
5. **Internet Library of saint names**
6. **Orientation Center**
7. **Train Station:** residence stop
8. **Residence Housing**



Confirmation Islands Facts

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The Islands cover 65,000 square meters (700,000 square feet) of an online, virtual 3-D environment.

It took 1,824 hours (228 8-hour days) to script, design, and build the five Islands.

There are over 10,500 objects (aka, prims and linked prims) on the five Islands.

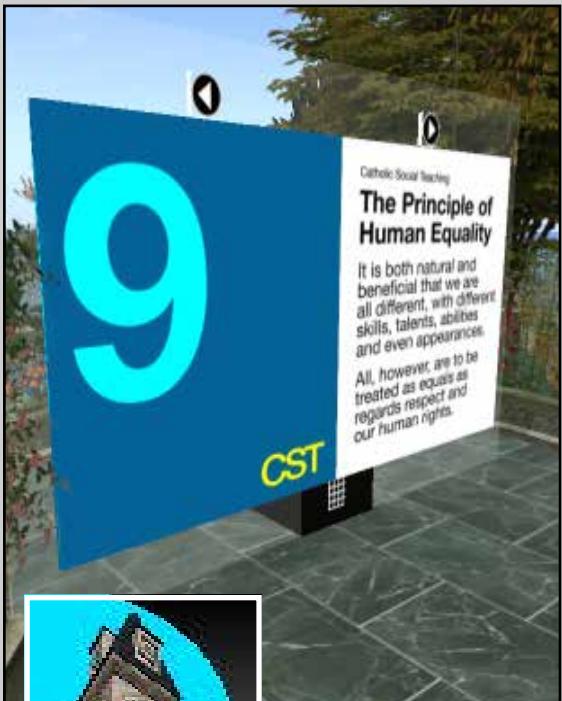
In addition to numerous educational notecards, there are 16 entertaining, interactive activities on the Islands.

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9. **Radio Station:** home of iTeen Radio
10. **Media Center**
11. **Greasy's Cafe**
12. **Amusement Park**
13. **Maryknoll House:** today's Stations of the Cross
14. **Dock House:** sponsor meeting rooms
15. **Helicopter Pad**
16. **Parish Banners**

Confirmation Quests . . .

for Social Justice



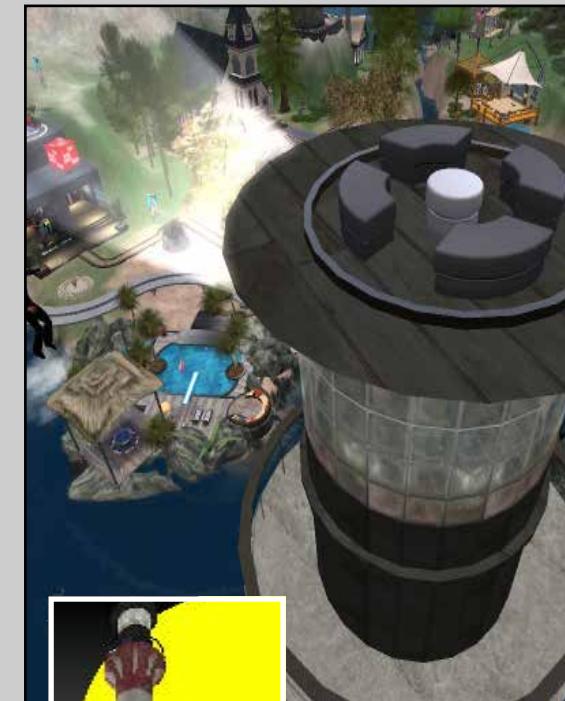
Catholic Social Thought (CST) concerns matters of human dignity and common good in society. The ten CST Principles address oppression, social justice and the role of the government. You'll be tasked with finding a solution to a social injustice.

for Your Mentor



Your Confirmation Sponsor. Normally, your baptismal sponsor acts as your confirmation sponsor. However, it is more important that the sponsor you choose be available and involved with you on your life-long spiritual development journey.

for the 7 Gifts



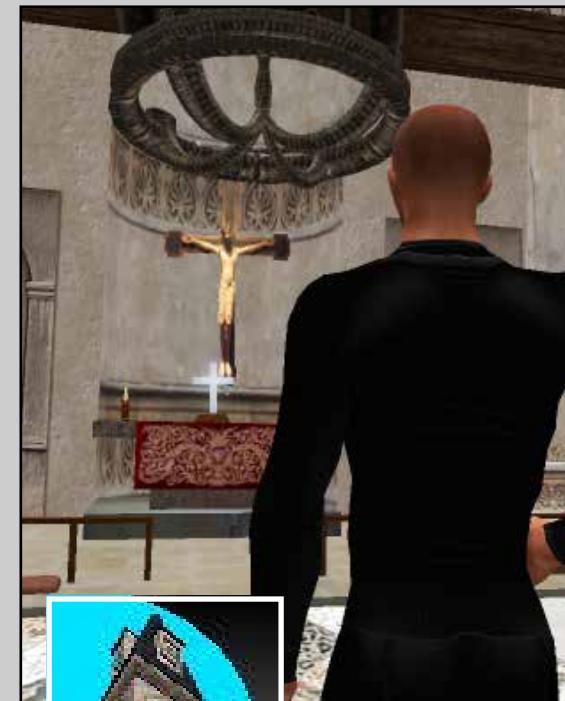
Gifts of the Holy Spirit are character traits that we are blessed with at baptism. They are: understanding, wisdom, intuition, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and wonder and respect for God and all of creation. You will use these gifts on your social justice quest.

for a Saint's Name



Choosing a Saint's Name. Candidates for confirmation are confirmed with their baptismal name. However, you are encouraged to select a saint to study and emulate as a patron of your confirmation. You may be confirmed with both your baptismal name and the name of your patron saint.

for Initiation



The Confirmation Mass. Christian initiation ends with the celebration of the Eucharist. Afterwards, you and your fellow confirmants will rise to gracefully meet any challenge life presents you.

Major Readings

Catholic Social Thought

- 1. The Principle of Human Dignity.** It's being human that establishes our dignity. Every person is worthy of respect, even in the face of judgment.
- 2. The Principle of Respect for Human Life.** All life is precious. "Thou shall not kill."
- 3. The Principle of Association.** Humans are social. Economy, politics, laws and religion should be organized to help individuals grow in the community.
- 4. The Principle of Participation.** All humans have a right to participate in society. Especially with regard to work and worker's rights, such as decent working conditions and fair wages.
- 5. The Principle of Protection of the Poor and Vulnerable.** We are called to help those less fortunate than ourselves. It is good to do so for the common good.
- 6. The Principle of Solidarity.** We all inhabit one world. We are interdependent. Concern for one another calls upon us to promote tolerance, forgiveness, peace and social justice.
- 7. The Principle of Stewardship.** We all inhabit one world. We are interdependent. Concern for one another calls upon us to protect our environment, our health, our quality of life.
- 8. The Principle of Subsidiarity** puts limits on government. No higher level of organization should perform any function that can be handled effectively and efficiently at a lower level of organization by a person or group closer to the problems.
- 9. The Principle of Human Equality.** It is both natural and beneficial that we are all different, with different skills, talents, abilities and even appearances. All, however, are to be treated as equals as regards respect and our human rights.
- 10. The Principle of the Common Good.** Unrestrained selfishness and greed in personal relations can destroy balance, harmony and peace within and between groups, communities, regions and nations. We should foster and support conditions that enable all to reach their own fulfillment.

Choosing a Sponsor

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC), the role of the confirmation sponsor is to:

"Continue to help the candidate (aka, confirmand) along the road of Christian life, to safeguard and develop the grace given at baptism and now sealed with the Holy Spirit."

In other words:

1. the sponsor must set an example for the candidate, by the life they live, and

2. to pray for the candidate, asking God to look after and protect them.

In order for a person to be a confirmation sponsor, he or she must:

1. be chosen by the one to be confirmed, by the parents or the person who takes their place, or in their absence by the pastor;

2. have the aptitude and intention of fulfilling the role described above;

3. is 16 years of age or older, unless the diocesan bishop has established another age, or the pastor has granted an exception for a just cause;

4. be a Catholic who has been confirmed and who leads a life of faith; and

5. not be the father or mother of the one to be confirmed.

The sponsor can be the older brother or sister or another relative of the one to be confirmed.

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Wisdom is both the knowledge of and judgment about "divine things." [Divine means 'of God.'] Everything is originally of God, the creator. Wisdom is the ability to judge and direct human affairs according to divine truth, to determine right from wrong and to seek justice.

Understanding is insight into the very heart of things, the how and why of things and matters. Understanding is the gift of discernment and insight. It helps us correctly perceive situations.

Counsel refers to the ability to both give and receive good advice, to guide and be guided by others, to encourage and be encouraged. If followers of the faith remain spiritually righteous, others will look up to them and seek their counsel.

Fortitude is a firmness of mind in doing good and in avoiding evil, particularly when it is difficult or dangerous to do so, and the confidence to overcome all obstacles. Fortitude is another word for strength and refers to spiritual rather than physical strength. Fortitude is the ability to commit to God despite temptations or external pressures.

Knowledge refers to being able to educate oneself and build up a base of information from which to operate in the world. The Bible encourages followers to employ knowledge for the good of all humanity.

Piety is revering God with filial affection, paying worship and duty to God, paying due duty to all men on account of their relationship to God, and honoring the saints and not contradicting Scripture. Piety is another word for devotion and is the demonstration of commitment to faith. A pious person is one who lives a sin-free, moral life, and who surrenders his own will to that of God.

Fear of God. Christians believe that a certain degree of fear of God will help followers lead a moral life. Fear can also be interchanged with awe or reverence, which encourage followers to pay devotion to God. Fear of the Lord is apparent when followers try not to do anything that would cause them to separate from God.

Choosing a Saint's Name

In confirmation, you choose the name of a saint as your confirmation name. Your "patron" saint will serve as your inspiration and guide in living a Christian life. Here are a few ways you can go about choosing a saint's name:

Choosing the name based on characteristics you have in common with a saint. Are you patient, a perfectionist, humble, diligent, prayerful, generous or shy? Consider which saint has traits similar to yours.

If you notice the needs of other people and speak up in support of them, pick a saint that matches that. Saints like Saint Angela Merici, Saint Teresa of Avila, and Saint Maria Goretti were saints known for being outgoing in their sainthood. If you are the kind of person that stands up for the little guy, choose someone brave to guide your spiritual journey. Saint George is known for being the Saint of courage and bravery, particularly for his strength during battle. Saint Joan of Arc is another saint known for courage and bravery.

Find your saint by looking at the feast day of the day you were born.

Search for a patron saint that shares your interests. For almost every cause, there is a patron saint who matches it. For example, if you are connected to animals, you might want to name yourself after Saint Francis of Assisi who was known for being a great lover of animals. If you are connected to acts of selflessness, choose the name Maximilian after Saint Maximilian Kobe. If you feel a connection to music, choose the name Cecelia after Saint Cecelia.

Once you choose a saint's name, when you pray, ask that the saint to intervene for you, that he or she helps you make great moral choices.

The source of the above advice:
<http://www.wikihow.com/Choose-a-Confirmation-Name>

For a comprehensive list of saints:
<http://www.aquinasandmore.com/fuseaction/store.patron-saintlist>

For descriptions of popular saints:
<http://www.catholic.org/saints/popular.php>

The Confirmation Mass

Presentation of the Candidates

[After the Gospel, the bishop and the priests who will be ministers of the sacrament take their seats. The pastor or deacon presents the candidates for confirmation. Each candidate is called by name and comes individually into the sanctuary accompanied by their sponsor. All take their seats.]

Homily

Renewal of Baptismal Promises

[After the homily, the candidates stand and the bishop questions them.]

Bishop: Do you reject Satan and all his works and all his empty promises?

Candidates: I do.

Bishop: Do you believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

Candidates: I do.

Bishop: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?

Candidates: I do.

Bishop: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who came upon the apostles at Pentecost and today is given to you sacramentally in confirmation?

Candidates: I do.

Bishop: Do you believe in the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

Candidates: I do.

Bishop: This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All present: Amen.

The Laying On of Hands

[The laying of hands on the candidates by the bishop and the concelebrant priests represents the biblical gesture by which the gift of the Holy Spirit is invoked.]

[The concelebrant priests stand near the bishop. They face the people.]

Bishop: My dear friends in baptism, God our Father gave the new birth of eternal life to his chosen sons and daughters. Let us pray to our Father that he will pour out the Holy Spirit to strengthen his sons and daughters with his gifts and anoint them to be more like Christ the Son of God.

[All pray in silence for a short time.]

[The bishop and the priests lay hands upon all the candidates by extending their hands over them.]

Bishop: All-powerful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by water and the Holy Spirit you freed your sons and daughters from sin and gave them new life. Send your Holy Spirit upon them to be their Helper and Guide. Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence. Fill them with the spirit of wonder and awe in your presence. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Anointing of Chrism

[The anointing with Chrism and the accompanying words express clearly the effect of the giving of the Holy Spirit. Signed with the perfumed oil, the baptized receive the indelible character, the seal of the Lord, together with the gift of the Holy Spirit that conforms them more closely to Christ and gives them the grace of spreading 'the sweet odor of Christ.]

[The deacon brings the Chrism to the bishop. Each candidate goes to the bishop. The one who presented the candidate places his right hand on the latter's shoulder and gives the candidate's name to the bishop.]

[The bishop dips his right thumb in the Chrism and makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of the one to be confirmed, as he says]

Bishop: (Name), be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Newly confirmed: Amen.

Bishop: Peace be with you.

Newly confirmed: And with your spirit.

Prayer of the Faithful

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Concluding Rite/Prayer Over the People

Deacon: Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.

Bishop: Peace be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Bishop: God our Father made you his children by water and the Holy Spirit; may he bless you and watch over you with his fatherly love.

All: Amen.

Bishop: Jesus Christ the Son of God promised that the Spirit of truth would be with his Church for ever; may he bless you and give you courage in professing the true faith.

All: Amen.

Bishop: The Holy Spirit came down upon the disciples and set their hearts on fire with love; may he bless you, keep you one in faith and love, and bring you to the joy of God's kingdom.

All: Amen.

Bishop: May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Contact Information

Confirmands: for homework assignments and your online group discussion schedule, visit:
<https://catechists.net/confirmation/>

For other inquiries, email:
walter.coddington@gmail.com