

“SOMETHING TO REMEMBER”

In Preparation for Confirmation

Introduction

In a section on elements of catechetical methodology, the National Catechetical Directory has stressed the need for and the place of memorization in catechetics.

“In every age and culture Christianity has commended certain prayers, formulas, and practices to all members of the faith community, even the youngest. While catechesis cannot be limited to the repetition of formulas and it is essential that formulas and facts pertaining to faith be understood, memorization has nevertheless had a special place in the handing-on of the faith throughout the ages and should continue to have such a place today, especially in catechetical programs for the young”.
(176, e).

Pope John Paul II in his Apostolic Exhortation on Catechetics, “Catechesi Tradendae”, pointed out the need for a judicious balance in the use of memorization. This balance is “between reflection and spontaneity, between dialogue and silence, between written work and memory work”. In the final lines of this section (55) the Holy Father makes this point:

“What is essential is that the texts that are memorized must at the same time be taken in and gradually understood in depth, in order to become a source of Christian life on the personal level and the community level”.

The Holy Father also points out, that memorization can be misused.

“We are all aware that this method can present certain disadvantages, not the least of which is that it lends itself to insufficient, or at times almost non-existent assimilation reducing all knowledge to formulas that are repeated without being properly understood” (55).

Bearing in mind the obvious limitations of rote memorization without proper explanation, we can nonetheless recognize that memorizing is an essential part of sacramental preparation. By incorporating their students’ faculty to memorize in an intelligent and

even original way, catechists can enable those preparing for Confirmation to not only understand this Sacrament, but also to tell others what they understand; that is, the students can acquire an articulate faith understanding of Confirmation.

Formulations

The National Catechetical Directory (176, e) includes the following formulations among those to be committed to memory:

Basic Prayers

(MEMORIZE)

The Sign of the Cross

Act of Contrition

The Lord's Prayer

The Apostles' Creed – Nicene Creed

Hail Mary

Act of Faith

Glory Be to the Father

Act of Hope

Act of Love

Sign of the Cross.

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

The Lord's Prayer.

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Hail Mary.

Hail Mary, full of grace! The Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Glory Be to the Father.

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.

An Act of Contrition.

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins, because of Thy just punishments, but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, who art all-good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Thy grace, to sin no more and to avoid the near occasions of sin.

The Apostles' Creed.

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, Our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell; the third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, sitteth at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting, Amen.

An Act of Faith.

O my God, I firmly believe that Thou art one God in three Divine Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; I believe that Thy divine Son became man, and died for our sins, and that He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all the truths which the Holy Catholic Church teaches, because Thou hast revealed them, who canst neither deceive nor be deceived.

An Act of Hope.

O my God, relying on Thy almighty power and infinite mercy and promises, I hope to obtain pardon of my sins, the help of Thy grace, and life everlasting, through the merits of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Redeemer.

An Act of Love.

O my God, I love Thee above all things, with my whole heart and soul, because Thou art all-good and worthy of all love. I love my neighbor as myself for the love of Thee. I forgive all who have injured me, and ask pardon of all whom I have injured.

FORMULAS REGARDING CHURCH WORSHIP

THE LITURGICAL SEASONS

(Memorize)

(“Proper of Seasons” - Sacramentary)

<u>Season</u>	<u>Vestment Color</u>
Advent	Violet (3 RD Sunday-Pink)
Christmas	White
Ordinary Time	Green
Lent	Violet
Holy Week	Violet
Easter Triduum	White
Holy Thursday	White
Good Friday	Red
Holy Saturday	-----
Easter Vigil	White
Easter Season	White
Ordinary Time	Green

THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS

(Memorize)

<u>Initiation</u>	<u>Reconciliation & Healing</u>	<u>Vocation</u>
Baptism	Penance	Matrimony
Confirmation	Anointing of the Sick	Holy Orders
Holy Eucharist		

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

(Memorize)

The Ten Commandments of God are of special importance in teaching specifics of morality. The Old Testament, the New Testament, and the long tradition of the Church testify to this. The Ten Commandments of God are:

1. *I, the Lord, am your God. You shall not have other gods besides me.*
2. *You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.*
3. *Remember to keep holy the Lords day.*
4. *Honor your father and your mother.*
5. *You shall not kill.*
6. *You shall not commit adultery.*
7. *You shall not steal.*
8. *You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.*
9. *You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.*
10. *You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.*

THE BEATITUDES

(Memorize)

*Blessed are the **poor in spirit**. The reign of God is theirs.*

*Blessed are the **sorrowing**. They will be comforted.*

*Blessed are the **meek**. They will inherit the land..*

*Blessed are **those who hunger and thirst for justice**. They will be satisfied.*

*Blessed are **the merciful**. They will receive mercy.*

*Blessed are the **pure of heart**. They will see God.*

*Blessed are the **peacemakers**. They will be called children of God.*

*Blessed are **those who are persecuted for justice's sake**. The reign of God is theirs.*

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

(Memorize)

- Wisdom -** *is the gift of the Holy Spirit which enables us to judge correctly concerning the things of God.*
- Counsel -** *is the gift of the Holy Spirit through which we receive his light to guide us in practical matters.*
- Understanding -** *is the gift of the Holy Spirit which gives us insight into the mysteries of faith so that we might live by them.*
- Knowledge -** *is the gift of the Holy Spirit which helps us to see God reflected in all creatures and to praise Him in them.*
- Fortitude -** *is the gift of the Holy Spirit which gives us Christ-like courage to love God in the face of obstacles, even death.*
- Piety -** *is the gift of the Holy Spirit by which we are attracted to reverence God as our Father and all others as His children, our brethren*
- Fear of the Lord -** *is the gift of the Holy Spirit which enables the believer to have great awe and reverence for Our Lord, and keeps us from offending Him through sin.*

THE FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

(Memorize)

Charity— the highest form of love (agape): God’s love in us, directed toward others

Joy— the confident happiness that comes with love

Peace— the inner harmony that comes from living in right relationship with others

Patience— the ability to cope with difficult circumstances

Kindness— sympathy and affection toward others

Goodness— the conviction to do what is right and avoid evil

Generosity— the ability to give freely

Gentleness— the ability to act tenderly

Faithfulness—loyalty to God, relationships, and beliefs

Modesty— respectful dress, speech, and conduct toward others

Self-control—self-discipline and responsible use of freedom

Chastity— living one’s sexuality appropriately according to one’s vocation

(Students will be asked to memorize the names of the twelve Fruits of the Spirit, and must be able to explain each fruit in their own words, using examples.)

THEOLOGICAL VIRTUES

(Memorize)

Faith Hope Love

SEVEN CAPITAL SINS

(Memorize)

Pride Envy Lust Sloth Anger Gluttony Covetousness

CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

(Memorize)

1. *To feed the hungry.*
2. *To give drink to the thirsty.*
3. *To clothe the naked.*
4. *To visit the imprisoned.*
5. *To shelter the homeless/*
6. *To care for the sick.*
7. *To bury the dead.*

SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

(Memorize)

1. *To correct the sinner.*
2. *To teach the ignorant.*
3. *To counsel the doubtful.*
4. *To comfort the sorrowful.*
5. *To bear wrongs patiently.*
6. *To forgive all injuries.*
7. *To pray for the living and the dead.*

THE PRECEPTS OF THE CHURCH

(Memorize)

1. *To assist at Mass on all Sundays and holydays of obligation.*
2. *To fast and abstain on the days appointed.*
3. *To confess our sins at least once a year.*
4. *To receive Holy Communion during the Easter time.*
5. *To contribute to the support of the Church.*
6. *To observe the laws of the Church concerning marriage.*

(Students must be able to paraphrase the above Precepts of the Church, explaining them in their own words.)

**FORMAT FOR CONFESSION PRIOR TO RECEIVING
THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION**

How to Make a Good Confession

1. I go into the confessional and kneel.
2. I make the sign of the cross and say: “Bless me Father, for I have sinned.”
3. I say: “This is my first confession”.
4. I confess my sins.
5. I listen to what the priest tells me and the penance he gives me.
6. I say the Act of Contrition loud enough for the priest to hear me when he tells me to do so.
7. After Father says, “Give thanks to the Lord for He is good”, I say “For His Mercy endures forever”.
8. I return to the pew and say the penance the priest has given me.

Prayer after Confession

While I look at the crucifix, I say:

“Thank you Lord for suffering for me, and thank you for healing and forgiving my sins.”

I say the penance the priest gave me, from my heart, and I ask Jesus to help me to do better.

CONFIRMATION QUESTIONS

(To Be Memorized)

1. **Who is a Christian?**

A Christian is a follower of Jesus Christ.

2. **When did you become a Christian?**

I became a Christian at Baptism.

3. **What is a Sacrament?**

A Sacrament is an action of Christ himself, an outward sign of God's grace and of our faith in Him.

A Sacrament is an outward sign, instituted by Christ to give grace. (Traditional.)

4. **What is the purpose of the Sacraments?**

The purpose of the Sacraments is to sanctify us, to build up the Body of Christ, and to give worship to God.

5. **Do Sacraments always give Grace?**

Yes, the Sacraments always give grace if we receive them with the right dispositions.

6. **What is Confirmation?**

Confirmation is the Sacrament in which the Holy Spirit comes to us in a special way to enable us to witness to Jesus Christ both in word and deed as committed Christians.

7. **Who is the Holy Spirit who comes to us in Confirmation?**

The Holy Spirit who comes to us in Confirmation is the third person of the Blessed Trinity.

8. **Is the Holy Spirit God?**

Yes, the Holy Spirit is God.

9. **Is the Holy Spirit equal to the Father and the Son?**

Yes, the Holy Spirit is equal to the Father and the Son.

10. **How does the Holy Spirit come in Confirmation? How does the Bishop Confirm?**

The Bishop extends his hands over those to be confirmed, and prays that they may receive the Holy Spirit, and anoints their foreheads with Chrism in the form of the cross. Our Confirmation by the Bishop reminds us of the First Pentecost .

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11. **What is Chrism?**
Chrism is the oil blessed by the Bishop on Holy Thursday. It is a sign of the strength the Holy Spirit gives us to carry out a mission for Jesus.
12. **What does the Bishop say when he confirms? What do you respond?**
Bishop: (Confirmation Name) Be sealed with the Holy Spirit.
Newly Confirmed: Amen.
Bishop: Peace be with you.
Newly Confirmed: And also with you.
13. **Why does the Bishop anoint the forehead with chrism in the form of a cross?**
The Bishop anoints the forehead with chrism in the form of a cross to remind us that we must openly profess and practice our faith, never be ashamed of it, and rather die than deny it.
14. **What are the effects of the Sacrament of Confirmation?**
a.) An increase in sanctifying grace.
b.) A spiritual character (or an active power) that helps the one who receives it to publicly profess and defend the faith.
15. **How often may Confirmation be received?**
Confirmation may only be received once. Like Baptism, Confirmation imprints a spiritual character.
16. **What is the character of Confirmation?**
The character of Confirmation is a spiritual and permanent mark that signifies that the person confirmed is a witness to Christ and a defender of the faith.
17. **Why can Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders be received only once?**
Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders can be received only once because they imprint on the soul a spiritual mark, called a character, which last forever.
18. **Why should all Catholics be confirmed?**
All Catholics should be confirmed in order to be strengthened against the dangers to salvation and to be prepared better to defend their Catholic faith.
19. **What special preparation should we make to receive Confirmation?**
In preparing to receive Confirmation we should pray, serve others, and know the chief mysteries of our faith and the duties of a Christian. We need to be instructed in the nature and effects of the sacrament of Confirmation.

20. **What is required to be a sponsor at Confirmation?**
To be a sponsor at Confirmation, a person must be:
a.) a practicing Catholic
b.) already confirmed and able to fulfill the duties of a sponsor.
21. **Why are there sponsors at Confirmation?**
Sponsors at Confirmation present the persons to be confirmed to the Bishop for anointing. They are able to help and to support the confirmed persons in their daily witness to Christ in their lives.
22. **Which Sacraments are called Sacraments of Initiation?**
Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist are called Sacraments of Initiation.
23. **Why are Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist called Sacraments of Initiation?**
Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist are called Sacraments of Initiation because Christian initiation is celebrated in Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. It is through these visible actions (sacraments) that a person becomes a member of the Church.
24. **Explain how these sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist are visible signs of initiation?**
Christians are reborn in Baptism, strengthened by Confirmation, and sustained by the food of the Eucharist.
25. **The child who is confirmed should be able to describe the First Pentecost.**
The account may be found in the Scriptures in the Acts of the Apostles, Chapter Two.
26. **In what form did the Holy Spirit come upon the Apostles at the First Pentecost?**
The Holy Spirit came upon the Apostles at the First Pentecost in the form of tongues.
27. **Name the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.**
The Gifts of the Holy Spirit are:
Wisdom, Counsel, Understanding, Knowledge, Fortitude, Piety, and Fear of the Lord.

CHECKLIST (Information to be Memorized)

INFORMATION

WHERE IS IT ? (Something to Remember Packet)

BASIC PRAYERS

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Hail Mary	_____	Page 2
Glory Be	_____	Page 2
Act of Contrition	_____	Page 2
Apostle's Creed	_____	Page 2
Act of Faith	_____	Page 2
Act of Hope	_____	Page 3
Act of Love	_____	Page 3

PRINCIPLES OF CHRISTIAN LIVING

Beatitudes	_____	Page 5
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Corporal Works of Mercy	_____	Page 8
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Precepts of the Catholic Church	_____	Page 8
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OTHER

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Liturgical Seasons	_____	Page 3
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THE HOLY SPIRIT

Gifts of the Holy Spirit	_____	Page 6
Fruits of the Holy Spirit	_____	Page 7

Effects of Confirmation	_____	(Catechism Book) #337 Page 159
Rite of Confirmation	_____	Lesson 25 Page 157
Pentecost	_____	Lesson 11 Page 71

Signature of Parent and/or Catechist: _____

Date: _____