



CONFIRMATION INTERVIEWER'S FORM

This form is meant to be an aide to a pastor and/or his delegate(s) for fulfilling his obligation and right to assess the preparedness of a candidate for the sacrament of Confirmation. The majority of the questions are meant to cover the basic cognitive or intellectual content of the Catholic faith. However, there are also questions which hope to elicit from the candidate a response of personal experience with the faith, or the affective content of the faith. The hope is that formation for the candidate will instill a greater appreciation of the sacramental life and foster a desire for life in relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church. Assessing a candidate, therefore, should take into consideration the cognitive and the affective content of the faith.

Each question is followed by a grid of possible answers. The best answer is considered to be worth 4 points. This form provides suggested criteria for assessing the candidate's answers. Once a score is determined for each question, the interviewer is invited to add them together into an aggregate score. A scale for grading has been provided at the end of this form. For more questions about this aide, contact the Office of Evangelization & Catechesis 402.557.5610.

Candidate: _____

Date of interview: _____

Candidate's Teacher: _____

Interviewer's Signature: _____

BEGIN WITH PRAYER

Come Holy Spirit fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit that they shall be created. And you shall renew the face of the earth. Let us pray. O God who instructed the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant us in the same Spirit to be truly wise and ever to rejoice in His consolation. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

1. What have you learned about the Holy Spirit and how the Holy Spirit works in our lives?

- The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Blessed Trinity.
- The Holy Spirit is God.
- Having received the gifts of the Holy Spirit in Baptism, they are strengthened in Confirmation.
- The Holy Spirit is the source of all holiness and prayer.

#	Assessment Criteria	4	3	2	1	Score
1	Knowledge of the Holy Spirit	Has an excellent understanding of the workings of the Holy Spirit.	Has good understanding of the workings of the Holy Spirit	Has some understanding of the workings of the Holy Spirit.	Has little or no understanding of this topic.	_____

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2. Tell me something about the gifts of the Holy Spirit and how these gifts work in your life.

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are:

- Wisdom: Knowing the right choices to make to live a holy life.
- Understanding: The ability to grasp the meaning of the teachings of the Catholic Church.
- Counsel: The ability to receive and give good advice.
- Fortitude: Helps you stand up for your faith in Christ.
- Knowledge: Helps you to know what God asks of you and how you should respond.
- Piety: Helps you love and worship God and helps you be respectful to others.
- Fear of the Lord: Helps you recognize the greatness of God and your dependence on him.

#	Assessment Criteria	4	3	2	1	Score
2	Gifts of the Holy Spirit	Has an excellent understanding of this topic and is able to articulate the gifts of the Holy Spirit and how these gifts work in our lives.	Has a good understanding of this topic and is able to articulate most of the gifts of the Holy Spirit and how they work in our lives.	Has a fair understanding of this topic and can name only a few gifts of the Holy Spirit	Has little understanding and is unable to name the gifts of the Holy Spirit.	_____

3. Service Work/Personal Gifts: How were you of service to your faith community or to the community at large? Tell me about that service experience. What did you gain from these experiences? What personal gifts do you have to use for others? What is stewardship and what is its relationship to your personal gifts?

- God gave us all personal gifts to serve Him, His church, and His people. Some gifts could be gifts of teaching, healing, prayer, caring, etc.
- Stewardship is the way we use the personal gifts that God has given us through our time, talents, and treasures.

#	Assessment Criteria	4	3	2	1	Score
3	Service to Others/ Personal Gifts	States importance of service as living faith; Already doing service or has plans to continue it using personal gifts; Can define stewardship; Practicing stewardship	Relates what was learned from service. Expresses a desire to continue service using his/her personal gifts	Names services performed and why liked; Names personal gifts; Sees little relationship between personal gifts and service to others	Sees no reason to continue service; Doesn't know personal gifts	_____

4. Recite the Apostles' Creed.

The Apostles' Creed is a statement of Christian faith (CCC #194)

- 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 power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. From there he will 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!

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4. continued... Tell me about the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The mystery of one God in three persons is the Blessed Trinity, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

- The Father is the first person of the Blessed Trinity.
- The Son is the second person of the Blessed Trinity.
- The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Blessed Trinity.
- There are three persons and only one God.
- The Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit are all God.

#	Assessment Criteria	4	3	2	1	Score
4	Basics of Religion-Creed	Knows that the Creed is a summary of what Catholics believe; Can name the persons of the Trinity and something about each of them.	Knows that the Creed is a summary of what Catholics believe; Can name the members of the Trinity and something about 2 of them.	Can tell who the members of the Trinity are and something about only one of them.	Has a very poor understanding about the persons of the Trinity	_____

5. What is prayer? When do you pray? Tell me about the different types of prayer and which is your favorite. Why do Catholics invoke Mary and the saints in prayer?

- Prayer is conversation with God, talking and listening to Him.
- We can pray using our traditional prayers (Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, etc.) and private prayers (using our own words).
- There are five types of prayer: blessing, petition, intercession, thanksgiving, and praise. (CCC 2644)
- When invoking the Saints and Mary we are asking for their help in approaching God. This is intercessory prayer. An example is the Rosary.
- The four sets of mysteries of the Rosary are Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful, and Glorious.

#	Assessment Criteria	4	3	2	1	Score
5	Basics of Religion-Prayer	Has an excellent understanding of the definition of prayer. Can state the 5 types of prayer; Knows that Catholics invoke the Saints and Mary as intercessory prayer; Can name the mysteries of the rosary.	Has a good understanding of the definition of prayer. States 3-4 <u>types</u> of prayer; Knows that Catholics invoke the Saints and Mary as intercessory prayer; Can name the mysteries of the rosary.	Has a fair understanding of the definition of prayer. Names several traditional prayers. Understands why Catholics invoke Mary and the Saints. Can name some of the mysteries of the rosary.	Has a poor understanding of the definition of prayer, but can name several traditional prayers.	_____

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6. What can you tell me about the Mass? How is Mass part of your prayer life? Do you actively participate weekly and on Holy Days? Why or why not?

- Mass was established by Jesus at the Last Supper so that by participating in his death and resurrection we can renew and make real our salvation. The Mass renews the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross as the sacrifice offered by the Church. Catholics fulfill the obligation of the 3rd commandment by attending Mass on Sundays and designated Holy Days . The most important part of Mass is receiving the Holy Eucharist, the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. By attending Mass on a weekly basis, we grow in our faith and in holiness as a person.

#	Assessment Criteria	4	3	2	1	Score
6	Prayer Life/Mass	Has an excellent under-standing of the Mass as our greatest prayer. Never intentionally misses Mass without serious reason; Knows we fulfill the obligation of the 3 rd Commandment by attending.	Has a good understanding of the Mass as our greatest prayer. Attends Mass 3 or 4 times monthly; Does not mention how we fulfill 3 rd Commandment.	Has a fair understanding of the Mass as our greatest prayer. Attends Mass 1 or 2 times a month.	Has a poor understanding of the Mass and our obligation to attend.* Rarely attends Mass except Christmas & Easter.	_____

*Mass attendance for the candidate for Confirmation may be a complicated issue because the parents may not attend themselves. For those candidates who do not attend Mass regularly, but have expressed a desire to do so, it is recommended that the pastor contact the parents directly in order to see about this issue.

7. How are the Ten Commandments part of our lives as Catholics? Can you name the first five commandments and tell how they guide our lives?

1. the Lord, am your God. You shall not have other gods before me.

- Commands: faith, hope, love, and worship of God alone; reverence for holy things; nourish and protect your faith
- Forbids: desecration of the Holy Eucharist, idolatry, superstition, astrology, fortune telling, believing in good luck charms, indifference with your faith, ingratitude, hatred of God; putting other things before God (hobbies, TV or work), committing a mortal sin with the idea that you can "just go to confession," sacrilege, tempting God, choosing the "in" crowd over God.

2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

- Commands: reverence in speaking about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, Blessed Virgin Mary, Saints, the Pope, priests or other consecrated persons and holy things; keeping oaths and vows
- Forbids: not confessing mortal sins, swearing, blasphemy, false oaths and the breaking of vows, perjury

3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.

- Commands: going to Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation; rest of mind and body; performing works of mercy
- Forbids: missing Mass on Sunday through your own fault; doing unnecessary work; leaving Mass before it is over; intentionally not fasting or abstaining on the appointed days

4. Honor your father and your mother.

- Commands: love, respect, and obedience to one's parents; looking after one's parents in their old age; honor and respect those in authority over us; fulfilling duties as a citizen
- Forbids: disrespect, disobedience, or hatred of parents and those in authority over us; making fun of people; rejecting your Catholic upbringing; fighting with siblings

5. You shall not kill.

- Commands: respect for life, health, and dignity of one's own life and that of others; controlling one's anger, avoiding war
- Forbids: willfully leading another into serious sin, suicide, deliberate abortion, murder, unjust fighting, excessive tattoos or body piercing, listening to immoral or disrespectful music; excessive use of TV, computer games or the Internet, euthanasia, endangering one's life or that of others, excesses such as food or alcohol consumption, hatred for people of other races and cultures, unjust killing, artificial contraception.

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#	Assessment Criteria	4	3	2	1	Score
7	Basics of Religion-- Commandments	Has an excellent understanding of the first 5 commandments. States that we live out our faith by following them. Recites Commandments 1-5, and tell how each guides our lives.	Has a good understanding of the 5 commandments. States that we live out our faith by following them. Is able to recite 4 of them, and tell how each guides our lives	Has a fair understanding of the 5 commandments. States that we live out our faith by following them; Is able to recite 3 of them and tell how each guides our lives.	Has a poor understanding of the first 5 commandments, Can recite some of them but cannot relate to how they guide our lives.	_____

8. Can you name the last five commandments and tell how they guide our lives?

6. You shall not commit adultery.

- o Commands: chastity in thought, word, and action; respecting one's own body and that of others
- o Forbids: obscene speech, being unfaithful to one's spouse, sex outside of marriage, pornography, impure actions alone or with others, living together before marriage, lust, rape, homosexual practice, polygamy.

7. You shall not steal.

- o Commands: respect for the property and rights of others; restitution for damaging others' property
- o Forbids: stealing or keeping the goods of others, damaging someone's property, cheating, and plagiarism

8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

- o Commands: truthfulness, respect for another's good name, keeping secrets when required
- o Forbids: ruining another's reputation, bragging, boasting, complaining, listening to immoral or disrespectful jokes, not keeping secrets when required, gossiping, flattery

9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.

- o Commands: purity in thought and heart; modesty in dress and action
- o Forbids: willful impure thoughts and desires, immodest dress and action, not avoiding the near occasion of sin, lust

10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

- o Commands: respect for the rights of others and their property
- o Forbids: the desire to take, keep, or damage the property of others; cruelty to animals, jealousy, greed, gambling, envy, plagiarism, pirating computer software, materialism

#	Assessment Criteria	4	3	2	1	Score
8	Basics of Religion-- Commandments	Has an excellent understanding of the first 5 commandments. States that we live out our faith by following them. Recites Commandments 1-5, and tell how each guides our lives.	Has a good understanding of the 5 commandments. States that we live out our faith by following them. Is able to recite 4 of them, and tell how each guides our lives	Has a fair understanding of the 5 commandments. States that we live out our faith by following them; Is able to recite 3 of them and tell how each guides our lives.	Has a poor understanding of the last 5 commandments, Can recite some of them but cannot relate to how they guide our lives.	_____

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9. How do you give witness that you are Catholic?

There are many ways a person lives out his/her Catholic Faith. Examples include

1. Attends Mass each week
2. Makes the sign of the cross in public
3. Uses sacramentals such as holy water, the rosary, holy cards, statues, crucifixes, etc.
4. Fasts, abstains and gives alms during Lent and does acts of penance on Fridays during the year
5. Receives Reconciliation at least once a year
6. Practices stewardship (giving of your time, talents, and treasures to the church)
7. Attends or participates in some type of continued learning about the faith
8. Asks others to attend Mass or other Catholic activities
9. Is conscious of his/her thoughts, words, and actions regarding what is right and wrong.
10. Behaves consistently with love for neighbor in all things
11. Makes decisions based on the teachings of Christ and His Church.
12. Others _____

#	Assessment Criteria	4	3	2	1	Score
9	I am a Catholic	Has an excellent understanding of what it means to be Catholic. Is able to name most of the above signs.	Has a good understanding of what it means to be Catholic.	Has a fair understanding of what it means to be Catholic.	Has a poor understanding of what it means to be Catholic.	_____

10. Tell me about the Sacraments and how each gives grace.

The seven sacraments are:

1. Baptism—makes us members of the Church; washing away of original sin
2. Eucharist--spiritual food which nourishes our faith life and strengthens us in our daily life and decisions
3. Confirmation—completes the grace of Baptism by a special outpouring of the gifts of the Holy Spirit
4. Penance or Reconciliation--confessing our sins to a priest to receive forgiveness from God and be reconciled with the Church
5. Anointing of the Sick—anointing by the priest of someone who is ill or of advanced age
6. Holy Orders-- men ordained by the bishop to serve the people of God, as a priest, deacon, or bishop
7. Matrimony-- covenant or partnership of life between a baptized man and woman, for their well-being and for the procreation and upbringing of children.

#	Assessment Criteria	4	3	2	1	Score
10	Basics of Religion-- Sacraments	Defines Sacrament; Names and explains all seven Sacraments	Defines Sacrament; Names seven Sacraments, & explains 5 or 6 Sacraments	Defines Sacrament and names the seven Sacraments; Explains 3 or 4 Sacraments	States that the sacraments are the way we celebrate our faith; States that there are seven sacraments; Explains 1 or 2 sacraments	_____

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11. Who have you chosen for a sponsor and why? What qualities of faith do you find most impressive about this person?

11. continued... What can you tell me about the name you have chosen for Confirmation?

#	Assessment Criteria	4	3	2	1	Score
11	Sponsor	Relates how sponsor can be role model in life & how Confirmandi can continue relationship with sponsor. Has an excellent understanding of why the name was chosen. Is able to speak about the saint, Christian mystery or virtue.	Names sponsor, why chosen, and names qualities of sponsor to imitate. Has a good understanding of why the name was chosen. Will share a few things about the decision	Names sponsor; Tells why sponsor was chosen. Has a fair understanding of why the name was chosen.	Names sponsor & relation-ship to student. Has a poor understanding of why the name was chosen. Is unable to equate the decision with faith.	_____

12. Do you want to be confirmed? How will Confirmation help you on your faith journey? What will you do to continue growing in faith?

#	Assessment Criteria	4	3	2	1	Score
12	Concern about being Confirmed	"Owns" the decision to be confirmed. Has an excellent understanding that Confirmation strengthens us toward a more intimate union with Christ. States plans to continue the journey	Has a desire to receive the sacrament and has a good understanding that Confirmation is not the end of the journey.	Indicates that parents are making them be confirmed and will continue faith formation only if parents require it.	Presents a "doesn't matter to me" attitude. Has no plans to continue with faith formation	_____

13. Be ready to discuss, "What attracts you about Jesus?"

#	Assessment Criteria	4	3	2	1	Score
13	Knowledge of Jesus Christ	Connects the love of Jesus to a personal encounter with Him.	Connects words and deeds with the example of love.	Gives specific actions and words of Jesus.	Offers generic attributes about Jesus.	_____

14. Be ready to discuss, "What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus in the world today?"

#	Assessment Criteria	4	3	2	1	Score
14	Understanding of Discipleship	Has an excellent understanding of discipleship to Jesus	Has a good understanding of discipleship	Has a fair understanding of discipleship	Has a poor understanding of discipleship	_____

TOTAL POINTS

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Grading:

0—26	Needs further preparation
27—35	Should review study guide then re-interview
36—45	Growing in commitment
46—56	Committed and well prepared

Interviewer Comments:

The Archdiocese of Omaha wishes to acknowledge St. Bonaventure Parish in Columbus for some of the content and format of this assessment tool.