

Sponsor Meeting 1 – Why am I Catholic

Opening Prayer (Together): Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth.

Activity and Discussion:

- 1) On your smart phone or tablet, go to www.blessedsacramentchurch.org/confirmation and watch the video under the post Sponsor Meeting 1 – Why Am I Catholic.
- 2) When you have watched the video, read through the reflection on the following page, and use the discussion questions as a guide for a conversation with the confirmand on this topic.
- 3) Ask the confirmand to fill out the summary form, and then both of you should sign it.
- 4) Use the following prayer to conclude your time together.

Closing Prayer: Mathew 16:13-19

Sponsor says: *"Let us remember we are in God's Holy Presence."*

Sponsor and Confirmand take a moment to quiet themselves and place themselves in God's presence

Confirmand Reads:

When Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus said to him in reply, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

They pause for a brief time to listen to the Lord speak to them in the scriptures.

The sponsor continues: Lord Jesus, through your Holy Church, you call each of us to be your disciples. As (Confirmand's Name) continues his/her preparation for confirmation, fill his/her heart with desire to truly be your disciple and a faithful member of your church. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

When asked why they are Catholic, it is common for people to respond, "Because my parents are Catholic, and they had me baptized." While this response is essentially accurate, in a way, it misses the point. To be Catholic is something dynamic that requires an individual to make a conscious decision to follow Jesus Christ as a member of the Church that he established when he told St. Peter, "You are rock, and on this rock, I build my Church." (Mt. 16:18). In other words, even though parents make the decision to incorporate their children into the Catholic faith when they are infants, at a certain point every Catholic must eventually make a conscious and deliberate decision to live that faith. It is about this decision that people are wondering when they ask, "Why are you Catholic?"

For this reason, it is important that as you begin your preparations for the sacrament of confirmation, you are able to offer some coherent response to this question. Why is it that you choose this faith over another? Are you convinced that the Catholic Church is the Church by which God will make you holy, and through which you will arrive in heaven? These are questions that every Catholic needs to answer.

To help you reflect on these questions, there are some important points to consider:

- 1) From the Catholic perspective, all religions are not equal. Jesus Christ prayed that all would be one, even as he and the Father were one (John 17:21). He intended that there would be one single Church. The Catholic Church is the only Church that can legitimately claim to have existed from the time of Christ until today.
- 2) The Catholic Church is the only Church that has the Eucharist. Only Catholics make the claim that bread and wine are truly transformed into the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Christ. Other Christian faiths see their "communion rituals" as purely symbolic.
- 3) The Catholic Church has existed for 2000 years. In that time, she has been the vehicle through which some of the most important developments in human history have occurred. From art and music to physics and medicine, the Church has been at the forefront of this research and development. Moreover, she has been the principle agent of social services and social change for most of that time. The Church has cared for the poor, created hospitals, provided refuge to the homeless, and cared for orphans more than any other human institution.

In the end, however, Catholicism is about truth and love. It is within the Catholic Church that humans are meant to find the Truth and experience in the deepest way possible the love that God has for them. These are the most important reasons for which one is a Catholic.

Sponsor Meeting 1 – Why am I Catholic (Confirmand)

Reflection Questions #1 – Due October 21st (please use the resources provided):

1. What is your favorite aspect of the Catholic faith? Why?
2. Is there an aspect of Catholicism with which you struggle?
3. Why are you Catholic?
4. Why do we believe that the Catholic Church is the One, True Church? (CCC 750; Youcat 129)
5. How will Confirmation help you grow closer to Christ? (CCC 1302-1305)

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Student's Name (Print): _____ Sponsor Signature: _____