

CONTENTS

Foreword	5
----------------	---

Part One

Instruction on Confirmation	7
-----------------------------------	---

Part Two

Rite of Confirmation.....	15
---------------------------	----

Part Three

Catechism for the Sacrament of Confirmation	21
---	----

Part Four

Prayers in honor of the Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ.....	36
--	----

Part Five

Responses at Mass.....	49
------------------------	----

Part Six

Highlights from the Gospels	66
-----------------------------------	----

Part Seven

Excerpts from the Acts of the Apostles	248
--	-----

Part Eight

A Review of Catholic Doctrine	255
-------------------------------------	-----

Appendix: Duties of Catholics.....	285
---	-----

Essential Prayers	286
-------------------------	-----

Vatican Council II on Confirmation

REBORN as sons of God, the faithful confess before men the faith which they have received from God through the Church. Bound more intimately to the Church by the sacrament of confirmation, they are endowed by the Holy Spirit with special strength. Hence they are more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith both by word and by deed as true witnesses of Christ.

(Document on the Church, 11)

THE laity derive the right and duty with respect to the apostolate from their union with Christ their Head. Incorporated into Christ's Mystical Body through baptism and strengthened by the power of the Holy Spirit through confirmation, they are assigned to the apostolate by the Lord himself.

(Document on the Laity, 3)

WHEREVER they live, all Christians are bound to show forth, by the example of their lives and by the witness of their speech, that new man which they put on at baptism, and that power of the Holy Spirit by whom they were strengthened at confirmation.

(Document on the Missions, 11)

FOREWORD

THIS book is intended to be both a manual for preparation for the sacrament of confirmation and a remembrance of this important event in the spiritual life of the confirmed Catholic.

In order to make this book as useful as possible to the teacher as well as to the candidate for confirmation, I would like to make the following suggestions:

1. Read over carefully the instruction on confirmation given in Part One. These ideas can be conveyed to the candidates for confirmation in simple terms at various stages of the catechetical course.

2. The catechism in Part Three concerns only the sacrament of confirmation. Each question should be carefully read, and, if possible, memorized, since it is the minimum that is expected as a preparation for the reception of this sacrament.

3. If time permits, it would be advisable to make a brief review of the entire catechism, found in Part Eight. Further material for such a review can be found in my *St. Joseph New American Catechism*—the Middle Edition or, at least, the Primary Edition.

4. The special feature of this book is the "Highlights from the Gospels" (Part Six) which will enable you to refer to the sections of the Gospels that can be used as a scriptural accompaniment for each question of the Confirmation

catechism. The "Highlights" tells the full story of the life of Christ in chronological order from the four Gospels. It is a useful way of getting the candidates for confirmation interested in the reading of Holy Scripture. This portion of the book can be used for Bible Readings long after confirmation.

5. "Prayers in honor of the Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ" (Part Four) can be used as a manual of prayer. One or more prayers may be recited with the candidates for confirmation before, during, or after each religion lesson. The same prayers would be useful for years to come to maintain the spirit of the sacrament of confirmation.

FATHER LAWRENCE G. LOVASIK, S.V.D.



12. The Finding in the Temple

EVERY year his parents used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover. And when Jesus was twelve years old, they made the journey as usual for the feast. When the days of the feast were over and they set off for home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents were not aware of this. Assuming that he was somewhere in the group of travelers, they journeyed for a day. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends, but when they failed to find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him.

After three days they found him in the temple, where he was sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his intelligence and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been searching for you with great anxiety." Jesus said to them, "Why were you searching for me?"

Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not comprehend what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and he was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in age and in grace with God and men. (Lk 2:41-52)



13. John the Baptist

THE word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert. He journeyed throughout the entire region of the Jordan valley, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah:

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness;

'Prepare the way of the Lord,

make straight his paths.

Every valley shall be filled in,

and every mountain and hill shall be leveled;