



Introduction to Confirmation

Confirmation Prep, Session 1

January 23/27, 2018

Patron Saint:

St. John Paul II



Karol Jozef Wojtyla, who would become Pope John Paul II, was born in Wadowice, Poland, on May 18, 1920 and lived through the devastating Nazi occupation of his homeland, which would later be controlled by the Soviet Union. He was elected Pope on October 16, 1978 and lived to see the fall of communism. He established World Youth Day to encourage young people to give their lives as disciples of Christ. He was known for his intense devotion to Mary. He died on Saturday, April 2, 2005, the vigil of Divine Mercy Sunday, which he had instituted.

From the Catechism:

...the sacrament of Confirmation is the full outpouring of the Holy Spirit as once granted to the apostles on the day of Pentecost. (CCC 1302)

Topic of the Day...

- Confirmation is a “confirming” of your faith that began at baptism.
- It is a strengthening of your faith.
- You receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit that enable you to be a better disciple.
- Confirmation is the beginning of your active discipleship.
- God is calling you personally.
- Discipleship will be personal and unique to you.
- You will take your encounter with Jesus and share it with others in different ways.

Discussion...

- Why would we say that confirmation is not a graduation in the faith?
- What are some obstacles or challenges to faith that either you have or you have seen in our society?
- What do you do about these challenges?
- Have you had experiences where you encountered Jesus?
- What does discipleship look like?

Big Questions...

- What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus Christ and do I see myself as His disciple?
- In what ways do I want to live out my discipleship right now?
- Lord, how do you want me to live out my discipleship right now?

Scripture Reflection

Matthew 13:1-23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat there; and the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they had not much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, but when the sun rose they were scorched; and since they had no root they withered away. Other seeds fell upon thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears, let him hear."

Then the disciples came and said to him, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" And he answered them, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For to him who has will more be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away. This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. With them indeed is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah which says:

'You shall indeed hear but never understand,
and you shall indeed see but never perceive.
For this people's heart has grown dull,
and their ears are heavy of hearing,
and their eyes they have closed,
lest they should perceive with their eyes,
and hear with their ears,
and understand with their heart,
and turn for me to heal them.'

But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. Truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous men longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

"Hear then the parable of the sower. When any one hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in his heart; this is what was sown along the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is he who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the delight in riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. As for what was sown on good soil, this is he who hears the word and understands it; he indeed bears fruit, and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."