

*Our Lady of Mt. Carmel*  
**Confirmation Process Outline**

The Confirmation preparation process in the Diocese of Orange consists of a two-year program, normatively beginning with students in the ninth grade. The Rite of Confirmation is celebrated with the local Bishop during the Easter season.

**Our Confirmation Process is built on the R.C.I.A.** (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) **Model** with Five distinct periods of preparation:

- I. **Inquiry:** Evangelization and PreCatechumenate.
- II. **Catechesis:** Catechumenate
- III. **Spiritual Formation:** Purification and Enlightenment.
- IV. **Initiation:** Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.
- V. **Post Sacramental Catechesis:** Mystagogia, knowledge as unfolding.

**Parent and Student** (grade 10 or older) **Orientation Meeting:** Sunday, September 27, after the 5 PM Mass from 6:00-7:30 PM. The meeting will cover an explanation of the program with outlines for students, parents and sponsors. Dinner provided.

**I. Inquiry Phase:** Sunday, September 27 - Sunday, November 15: Confirmation Candidates are invited to witness and experience the love and life of Jesus Christ. **Candidates meet Sunday evenings from 6:00-7:30 PM** immediately after the 5 PM Mass in the parish hall. We provide a dinner with a meeting following. All Youth Ministry functions are part of the process. Students will also meet individually with program coordinator, John Bruscia, for a "discovery interview."

**Commitment to Participate, "Rite of Acceptance":** Sunday, November 15, 5 PM Mass. The Rite provides an introduction of our **second year candidates and their sponsors** to our parish community. They will be called forward to participate in a "Rite of Acceptance" ceremony marking the movement into the systematic-catechesis phase of the program. The parish community will participate by selecting names of candidates and praying with and for them. Sponsors will stay after Mass for dinner and meeting with candidates.

**II. Catechesis includes three distinctive components:**

1. **Curriculum** (acts within the cognitive dimension). Content and subject areas:
  - A. Jesus and Faith
  - B. The Church and its Mission
  - C. Morality and Decision Making
  - D. Prayer and Sacraments.Curriculum requirements will be met during our Sunday meetings
2. **Formation** (spiritual, moral, affective, inter-personal dimensions). Includes continued participation in:
  - A. Sunday liturgy and liturgical rites and prayers of the church.
  - B. Days of challenge and renewal and Retreats.
  - C. Spiritual guidance.

Formation takes place individually when the students participate in the Liturgy of the Word and Liturgy of the Eucharist, the prayer of the church, and through personal and communal prayer and the daily struggles of life. Formation also takes place corporately through our Youth Ministry program: with retreats, prayer experiences, peer counseling, meetings, discussions, service actions, etc. Dates of specific retreat days and days of renewal can be found on "Checklist."

3. **Christian Service and Leadership (social dimension)**

- A. Individual service and leadership.
- B. Community service and leadership projects: Student is responsible to generate individual (on their own) service and Christian leadership situations. Students are also invited to participate in Community service and leadership projects presented through our Youth Ministry Program. **Thirty hours** are requested over two years.

**III. Rite of Election:** Sunday, March 7, 2010, during the 5 PM Mass. Year II candidates make a public commitment of their intent to complete the confirmation program. **Year II candidates, and sponsors, will be called forward to the front of the church for a blessing.** This marks the period moving to greater reflection, spiritual formation, purification and enlightenment. Sponsors will stay for dinner and a meeting with the candidates following Mass.

**Immediate Preparation for the Rite of Confirmation:**

- 1. Interview with Program Director, John Bruscia.
- 2. Interview with Pastor/parish priests.
- 3. Letter to the Bishop requesting the "Rite of Confirmation."
- 4. An integrating experience: a "Morning of Reflection and Confirmation Practice" on Saturday, May 1, 2010 from 9AM-12noon.
- 5. Confirmation Liturgy.

**IV. Celebration of the Rite of Confirmation:** The time and date will be assigned in November. Confirmations take place during the Easter Season; we are *requesting* Sunday, May 2, 2010 as our first choice.

**V. Post Sacramental Catechesis:** *Mystagogia*, the continual, sacramental life of the person; knowledge unfolding, the life long practice and celebration of the faith. Confirmation is one of the sacraments of initiation, in which Confirmation complements Baptism and leads to the fullness of the Eucharistic banquet. Students are strongly encouraged to continue to participate in parish programs to assist them in their growth. They should seek ways to become *actively* involved in the life of the parish and in service to the community. Confirmation opens new doors of faith and continued catechesis and practice is essential! Life is full of Grace!

Call our Confirmation Coordinator, John Bruscia, with any questions (949) 673-2719.