Queen of Apostles Confirmation Preparation 2024-2025

This session's objectives:

- To anticipate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (January 18-25) by improving students' understanding of the relationship between the Catholic Church and other Christian churches
- To empower candidates to explain & affirm their Catholic beliefs as part of evangelization & basic apologetics
- To explore the role of Mass as a response we make because of our faith and its importance for our salvation, spiritual well-being and service to others

This session's program:

1. Name-tag pick-up and Icebreaker

5-10 min 6:45

- student nametags; turn in Letters taken home to finish, any late papers/forms Icebreaker based on Journal p. 65, discuss at tables/in groups
- be prepared to share top answers with the class how do we live by Jesus' example?
- 2. **Prayer for Christian Unity** (led by Rachel/Anne/Joe)

5 min 6:55

- also introduce the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, which is celebrated each year to bring Christians of different churches together in prayer for unity between 1/18 (Confession of St. Peter, a Protestant feast) & 1/25 (Conversion of St. Paul)
- it's good to focus more on what unites us than on what divides us! Connect to last class
- 3. Christian Churches Compared (Rachel/Anne/Joe)

15 min 7:10

- high-level overview of some key similarities & differences of major Christian churches
- branching trees, circle graphics show relationships of church communities
- <u>video</u> from Fr. Mike Schmitz. illustrating that the Catholic Church is the original ship, with many other ships sailing in the same direction that all borrowed from the original
- 4. Marks of the Church (video as a class; discussion at tables/groups) 15-25 min 7:25
 - video introduction as a class (stop at 5:00 in when it becomes a commercial)
 - breakout discussion at tables on 4 questions themed to the 4 Marks of the Church, that the Church is One, Holy, Catholic. and Apostolic

If time is short, class leader may assign different questions to different groups.

5. **Video on the Mass** (intro'd Rachel/Anne/Joe) 10 min 7:50 the Eucharist is the source & summit of our faith life as Catholics, so how can we be **Bored at Mass?**, show video

6. Mass Verbs Breakout (At Tables/Groups/Partners)

25-30 min 8:00

- each pair chooses a verb card to write about on the question sheet (10 minutes)
- can share responses with table, discuss where different actions occur during Mass (15 minutes); help each other
 - can use overview on pp. 104-105 of the textbook to review structure of Mass
- 7. Homework, Reminders and Closing Prayer

5 min 8:25

- pray Renewal of Baptismal Promises

Homework & Reminders for Candidates:

- **NO CLASS next week** (MLK Holiday) read/do **textbook** pp. 28-30
- next class is **Monday, Jan. 27** for both tracks interview with parish staff in Feb.!
- Christian service forms for 5+ hrs due in 3 weeks at first class in Feb. take a form!