

Welcome!

Confirmation Information Session
September 2021



Opening prayer: Patient Trust

by Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, SJ

Above all, trust in the slow work of God.
We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay.
We should like to skip the intermediate stages.
We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new.

And yet it is the law of all progress
that it is made by passing through some stages of instability—
and that it may take a very long time.

And so I think it is with you;
your ideas mature gradually—let them grow,
let them shape themselves, without undue haste.
Don't try to force them on,
as though you could be today what time
(that is to say, grace and circumstances acting on your own good will)
will make of you tomorrow.

Only God could say what this new spirit
gradually forming within you will be.
Give Our Lord the benefit of believing
that his hand is leading you,
and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself
in suspense and incomplete.

Program Overview

- We welcome 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students to enter a year of discernment
- Small group and discussion based learning
- 1.5 hour meetings the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month, Oct-March
- Service and SJA Community Engagement Requirements
- 2 retreats
 - October 3rd
 - March 20th



Confirmation Themes:

- Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Sacred Scripture
- Catholic Social Teaching
- The Church Year and Symbols of Faith
- Living a Moral Life
- Jesus and the Communion of Saints
- Prayer



Service and SJA Community Engagement

- 3 of each
- Fill out a reflection form online for each one
- Examples of Service:
 - Feed My Starving Children
 - Helping a neighbor shovel snow or rake leaves
 - Writing letters to folks at a nursing home or others who are isolated
- Examples of Community Engagement:
 - Any event that is sponsored by the SJA community: ministry meeting, prayer service, concert, justice event, etc.
 - Check out what's happening in the bulletin
 - It can be a virtual event



Picking a Sponsor

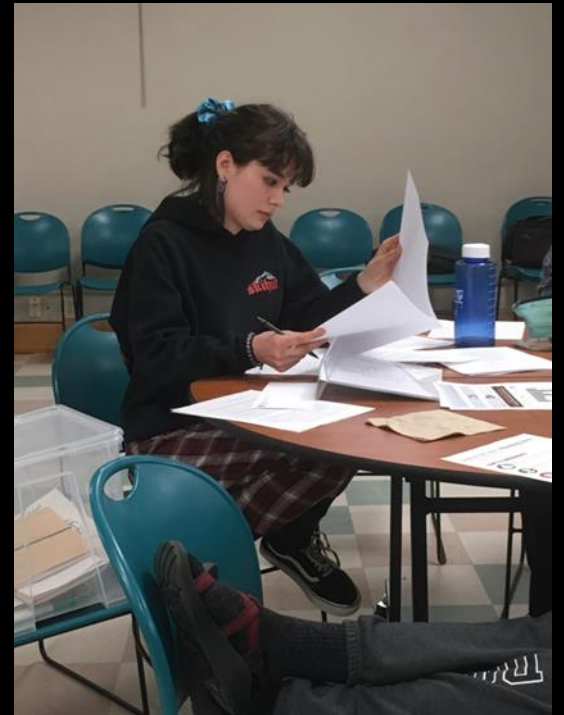
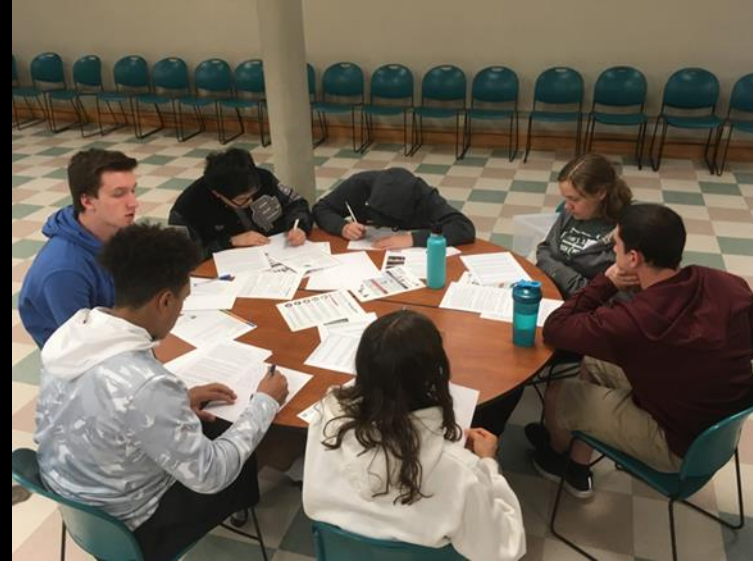
- Someone you/your teen has a relationship with and enjoys spending time with
- A confirmed Catholic
- Cannot be a parent
- Things to consider:
 - Are they available for our retreats on October 3rd and March 20th?
 - Are they interested in having conversations about faith, spirituality, the Church, living a Catholic life, etc?
 - Are they willing to complete a service project with you/your teen?

Attendance

- Building relationships is foundational to community and you need to be present to build relationships.
- We will have 11 sessions between October 3rd and Confirmation next April. We ask that candidates be present at all meetings and retreats.
- Please carefully consider the Confirmation calendar. If a candidate misses more than 3 sessions, we ask that they complete their Sacrament of Confirmation another year.

Expectations of Teens

- Be present!
 - Come to every meeting
 - Be on time
 - Be ready to listen and discuss
 - Keep cell phones turned off and put away
- Please eat supper before coming
- Go to Mass on Sunday mornings



Ways for Parents to be supportive:

- Ask your teen how the Confirmation gathering went after each session:
 - what did they learn?
 - what did they like?
 - what challenged them?
- Have conversations about how you discerned to be Confirmed
- We will be communicating via email:
 - Please read and responded as needed



Parents, we need your help!

- Be a small group leader
- Help with hospitality
 - We will not be sharing supper together this year, but will provide snacks at each meeting. 2-3 volunteers to help with this would be appreciated!



COVID Safety

- We will be following all CDC guidelines regarding masking and social distancing.
- Currently, we ask everyone, regardless of vaccination status, to wear a mask while indoors.
- We plan to meet in-person throughout the year.
- We know we need to remain flexible and will communicate any changes as soon as we can.



Questions?

- Contact Rose
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