

Directions -- Small group facilitator

Enclosed is information on our Confirmation Program. Our small group facilitator's primary responsibilities are to represent the adult members of our parish community; be a person of hospitality with our candidates, parents, sponsors and guests. This position includes being a good role model of our Catholic Faith, being a good listener with our candidates and enjoying yourself.

You will be spending time each session in small group discussion with a group of 5-7 candidates. You will be asking your small group several questions about home, school, work and social activities. Be a good "listener" and ask them additional questions as they share about themselves. There will also be additional questions about the topic/speakers for each session. When you do the questions, DO NOT fill up the quiet time with your thoughts and opinions. Just sit and be quiet and make eye contact with them. Repeat the question. Ask others what they think about what has been said. Only comment if you are asked. If you do this at the first few sessions, you will be doing it for the rest of the program.... and answering their questions! If you fill it with you....you will be filling it with *you* for the rest of the year.

If you get questions about our faith and you cannot answer, tell them you will get the answer for them or better, ask them to find the answer and bring it to the next session. Be sure and follow up on this. IF there is time, you can have them look it up on their I-phones right there. Catholic Answers is a great place for answers (www.catholic.com).

Also, sometimes, they will make "claims" about something they think is ridiculous/hypocritical about our Catholic Faith. Don't respond but instead ask them questions back....even kind of take their side on it. Then ask them, "Why do you think the Catholic Church would do/say something like that?" It's interesting what comes out of that kind of question....especially from the others at the table. Then, challenge them to find out "WHY" the Church has such a teaching.... Follow-up at the next session with them. If you "know" why, and they ask, then answer their questions. Fulton Sheen made the comment that "there are probably less than 100 people in the United States who really have a problem with something the Catholic Church teaches. The other 250 million have a problem with something they **heard** the Catholic Church teachers."

At the session, the candidates will have a speaker(s), view a DVD or participate in an activity or simulation. You will have discussion questions. Keep in mind the information above with your discussion questions.

With an activity or simulation, keep it "real" for them. Don't let them suggest unrealistic solutions and steer them away from illegal, unethical or sinful solutions by asking the group: "Is that realistic?" or "Would you REALLY do something like that? I couldn't!" . Do not suggest solutions. If they ask "what would you do?" early in the discussion, ask them more questions, challenge them to suggest more solutions. Only if they seem to have exhausted their ideas and can't seem to find a solution, should you tell them what you *could* do.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

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