

Advent 2025

Dear Youth Ministers and Catechists,

We invite you to participate in an exciting pilot project as we develop a new resource for Confirmation preparation! This resource places a spotlight on human dignity and is designed to help our candidates recognize their dignity in their relationship with God and with one another. It will set the stage for outreach to others and for continued, lifelong engagement post-Confirmation. It is called the Candidate-Sponsor Encounter (CSE), and it will include two components: reference materials for parish and ministry leaders, and an activity for the Confirmation candidate to do with his or her sponsor during the time of immediate preparation.

We are currently seeking Confirmation catechists and teams to conduct the activity portion of this resource with their students and share their feedback with us. The time frame is now through the end of February, with the goal of making the final version of the CSE available in several languages by Easter 2026.

Key features of the CSE activity include:

- An awareness that we are created by God to be in relationship with God and one another.
- Insight into our human dignity through active and ongoing relationship with God, other people, and the Church.
- An added dimension of relationship to the Confirmation preparation process, experienced with one key adult in a young person's life: the Confirmation sponsor.
- The Encounter includes a series of activities that the candidate and sponsor do as a pair:
 - *Part I: Our Relationship with Trinitarian God* – includes Scripture readings and discussion questions
 - *Part II: What is my Response?* – explores virtues and the formation of conscience, and addresses the questions “What kind of person do I want to become?” and “How can I orient my life toward good decision-making?”
 - *Part III: Our Relationship with Others* – includes intercessory prayer activities
 - *Part IV: Our Relationship with the Church* – discernment of continued involvement after Confirmation.

This resource is designed to be flexible and can be implemented in various ways:

- As a stand-alone retreat – as a half-day event, or with additional activities (prayer, Adoration, games...) for a full day retreat.
- As an add-on to an existing Confirmation retreat (invite sponsors at the beginning or end)
- As a take-home packet for Candidates and sponsors to do on their own
- Can be conducted as a virtual (Zoom/Teams) activity if the sponsor is not local
- Other ideas you may have!

Your input will help us to refine this draft and will serve to shape the final version of the Candidate-Sponsor Encounter. We would greatly appreciate your participation in this pilot project! Please email me at Kimberly.Abadir@seattlearch.org, and I will send you all of the materials.

Blessings,

Kimberly Abadir

Director of Lifelong Formation