

PROFESSION OF FAITH

In preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation, please answer the following questions about your faith in Jesus Christ as a Catholic Christian. Use additional sheets of paper if necessary. The first draft is needed before the retreat. The retreat will help you write your finished statement.

What difference does Jesus Christ make in how I understand what my life is all about?

When I think like Jesus did, I can see why He came on a search and rescue mission to save me. So, what does Jesus save me *from* in this world, and what does he save me *for* in the next life?

What difference does Jesus Christ make in how I live out my personal values each day?

When I love like Jesus did, I can see Jesus in other people and treat them just as Jesus would. So, what does Jesus teach me about how to make responsible moral decisions in my daily life?

What difference does Jesus Christ make in how I am part of my parish community?

When I live like Jesus did, I can appreciate how much I need the support of fellow disciples. So, what does Jesus and His Church teach me about being a confirmed Catholic Christian?

The New Joliet Diocesan Vision of Bishop Ronald Hicks:

- Catechesis: not only know about our faith, but really knowing Jesus himself
 - Evangelization: loving our faith enough that we willingly share it with others
 - Faith Into Action: living our faith so nobly that it attracts others to Jesus
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The Kerygma, the Basic Gospel Message:

- God created us good, and he did so with a purpose.
- We chose to be bad instead, and we lost our way.
- Jesus made it possible for us to find our way back.
- In his Church, Jesus leads us back to God in love.

Three Dimension of Catholic Christianity:

- Creed: We understand our life through the teachings of Christ.
- Code: We love one another as Christ himself has first loved us.
- Culture: We worship Christ in the community of his Church.

How do we know that we need a Savior?

- The Good: the best is just never good enough
- The Bad: none of our solutions work out well
- The Ugly: the irony is that we all die anyway

What do we discover through faith in Christ?

- The True: there is a reason and a real purpose to life
- The Good: there are values that truly endure forever
- The Beautiful: life in Christ is the only life worth living

Spiritual and Religious Belong Together:

- Being religious without also being spiritual is like going through the motions, but without faith.
- Being spiritual without also being religious is like talking the talk, but without walking the walk.
- Being both spiritual and religious is a lifestyle that can transform our everyday existence.

Worldly or Spiritual, and then Religious:

- Worldly: acting as if this world were all that there is to life
 - Spiritual: realizing that the very best in life is still yet to come
 - Religious: living out the spiritual life within our world today
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Prayer of Commitment to Christ our God:

- Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.
- Fill me with your Spirit, so that I may live a new life.
- Help me to know you, love you, and serve you in this world
- So that I may be happy with you, both now and for all eternity.
- Thank you, Lord! Amen.