

Confirmation

Candidate Guide

High School

Introduction

WE READ IN 1 PETER 2:9 that as anointed children of God in baptism, we become a “chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people.” We die and live again with the risen Jesus in the waters of baptism. We are chosen with holy oil, we are called to spread God’s word, and we are sent as royal ambassadors of God’s holy nation.

What you thought was a simple pouring of water on your head turns out to be a pretty impressive and terrifying event. Let’s take it one step at a time.

OPENING PRAYER SERVICE



Your leader will call your name, make the Sign of the Cross with holy water on your

forehead, and ask you to remember what your baptism stands for. After everyone has been signed, say the opening prayer.

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

Leader: Loving God, we thank you and praise you for all the good you do for us. We thank you for the gift of Jesus, your Son, who opened the gates of heaven for us through his suffering, death, and resurrection. We thank you for making us your children through the sacrament of baptism. We ask you to help us prepare for the sacrament of confirmation. Open our minds and our hearts to your love. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

Priest, Prophet, & King

STEP ONE

Priest

You Were Baptized Into the Royal Priesthood of Jesus

BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW THAT. SURPRISE! Like the priests and kings of the Old Testament, in baptism you were anointed with the oil of catechumens on your chest and with holy chrism on the crown of your head. And so, for all these years, your calling as a "priest" has been waiting to be activated. The Holy Spirit's coming in confirmation does just that.

This does not make you a priest in the same way your pastor is a priest. Your pastor is ordained to serve as an instrument of the Holy Spirit in making the Church holy through the sacraments and his leadership. An ordained priest makes it possible for you, as baptized, to live *your* part of the call of Jesus' priesthood: to keep the Church holy through the way you live your life.

What does that really mean to *you*? Here are a few examples: visit the imprisoned, be a lector, visit the sick, lead prayer, lead and organize parish projects, feed the hungry, be a server or greeter, console the grieving, sing or play an instrument in the choir, or become a godparent.

Take a moment to think about two priestly activities you can do now, then write them down.

Describe one of them in more detail.

Discuss your priestly activities with a partner. Take notes on what your partner says.

Hear ye! Hear ye! The Lord God Almighty announces a newly christened royal child! Be it known to all in the kingdom that this royal child is entitled to the respect, courtesy, and honor befitting a member of the royal household!



Record the activities shared by the small group.

List the large group's activities.

STEP TWO

Prophet

You Were Chosen to Spread the Word

YOU'VE BEEN CHOSEN ALMOST EVERY DAY OF YOUR LIFE. You're

chosen for a team, to answer in class, to babysit, to do chores, to be a friend, to help grandparents or a neighbor. At your baptism, you were chosen to be God's prophet, to hear God's word, to live God's word, and to spread God's word. Hearing God's word is more than listening to the readings at Mass or reading the Bible. It's *understanding* what God is trying to tell you.

What's one of your favorite Bible stories? Look it up now. Jot down a few ideas to help you tell the story to your partner and tell why you like it.

Share with your partner. Take notes on your partner's story.

Record the stories shared by the small group.

List the large group's stories.



If any of these stories has a special meaning for you, it could have a special meaning for someone else. You were chosen to spread the word of God. How do you tell others about God without being weird?

Share with your partner. Take notes on your partner's ideas.

Record the ideas shared by the small group.

List the large group's ideas.

Prophets often went against popular opinion. In fact, they weren't popular at all. Could your friends influence you to do something you felt was not right, like drink, smoke, have sex, take drugs, race cars, bully others, or watch Internet pornography? Explain.

STEP THREE



You Are Sent as Royal Ambassador

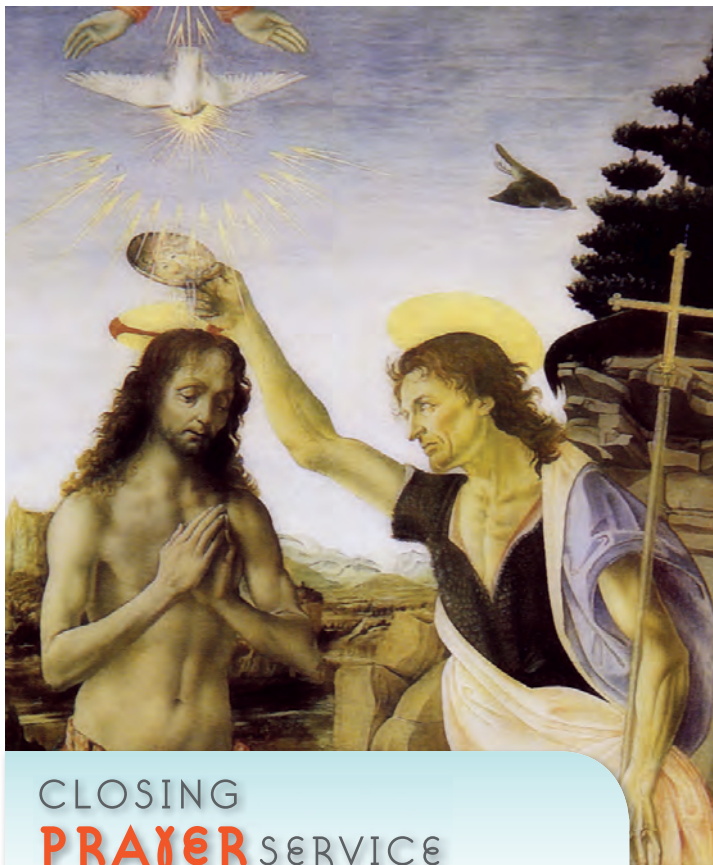
WHEN THE ROYAL FAMILY OF ANY NATION HAS A BABY, the birth is

proclaimed throughout the land. At your baptism, you began your royal life. Just as princesses and princes grow up learning their royal responsibilities, you've been growing up learning what it means to be God's daughter or son.

Image is extremely important for members of a royal family. Their public image must be positive; their dress, hairstyle, makeup, and how they sit and stand must show they're always aware of the honor and dignity of their heritage. As a member of God's royal family, you're called upon to represent God to the world.



How does the way you dress at the homecoming dance or prom, the way you talk, and the way you behave show others that you're a member of a royal family? After your eighth-grade graduation, how did you change your image to impress your new high school friends?



CLOSING PRAYER SERVICE

Leader: Let us pray. We present the baptismal candle.

ALL: Jesus is the light of the world.

Candle bearer puts lighted candle on or near the font

Leader: We pledge ourselves as God's children.

ALL: We do turn away from evil. We turn to God. We send the devil out of our lives.

Leader: What do you believe?

Candidate 1: We believe in one God. We believe in three divine persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

ALL: We do believe.

Candidate 2: We believe the Catholic Church possesses the fullness of truth.

ALL: We do believe.

Candidate 3: We believe the saints in heaven, the souls in purgatory, and the faithful on earth form one family of God.

Share with your partner. Take notes on your partner's ideas.

Record the ideas shared by the small group.

List the large group's ideas.

ALL: We do believe.

Candidate 4: We believe God has given us the sacrament of reconciliation for the forgiveness of sin.

ALL: We do believe.

Candidate 5: We believe we will rise from the dead and have everlasting life through Jesus.

ALL: We do believe.

Leader: Come to the blessed water and sign yourself with the cross.

Each candidate steps forward to the holy water, dips in a finger, and makes the Sign of the Cross

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, we have stated our beliefs. We trust that, strengthened by your presence in us, we will try to live our beliefs each day so we can share more and more fully in you as priest, prophet, and king. Amen.

ALL: Amen.

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