

CONFIRMATION RETREAT OPENING PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

Good morning, and welcome to our prayer service to begin our Confirmation retreat. Let us enter this time of reflection by raising our voices and singing God's praise. Please join in our opening song...

OPENING PRAYER

Let us begin our prayer marked by the sign of our faith: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

And let us pray: God our Father, you knew us before we were born. You called us at Baptism to be witnesses of your love for us in Christ. Prepare our hearts and minds today to welcome the gifts of your Holy Spirit, that we may become everything you desire us to be as your sons and daughters in Christ. We make this prayer to you in the name of Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

And now, let us listen to God's word.

READING

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah (Jer 1: 4-9)

Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.' Then I said, 'Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.' But the Lord said to me, 'Do not say, "I am only a boy"; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE

(Suggested Song: *You are Near*)

READING

A reading from the Gospel of John (Jn 14: 23, 25-27)

"Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

RESPONSE

The response to our prayers is: *Come, Holy Spirit!*

Holy Spirit, come fill us with *wisdom* to understand your holy ways:

Come, Holy Spirit!

Holy Spirit, come fill us with *knowledge* of the Father's great love for us in Christ.
Come, Holy Spirit!

Holy Spirit, come fill us with *understanding*, to know the truth of the Catholic faith.
Come, Holy Spirit!

Holy Spirit, come fill us with *right judgement*, to see what we must do as Jesus' disciples.
Come, Holy Spirit!

Holy Spirit, come fill us with *courage* to follow Jesus in all things.
Come, Holy Spirit!

Holy Spirit, come fill us with *reverence*, to have holy respect for all that is sacred and true.
Come, Holy Spirit!

Holy Spirit, come fill us with *wonder and awe*, to see your greatness in all things and live for your glory.
Come, Holy Spirit!

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Let us pray for the Church. That all who belong to Jesus might show the world what it means to live as God's children, by working and praying together for peace.

We pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for the world and all our civic leaders. That all God's children might open their hearts to the Holy Spirit's gifts of peace and unity.

We pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for all those who are suffering in our school, our families, our community and world. That the Holy Spirit might move each of us to bring them comfort and joy.

We pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for ourselves, our Pastor, our Bishop, teachers, EAs, parents, grandparents, and all who help us grow as disciples of Jesus. That God might give them wisdom and courage to continue leading us in faith.

We pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for ourselves and all who are part of this retreat today. That our hearts might be open to receive the grace we need to help one another prepare for this sacrament.

We pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for all our needs (pause). And let us bring these before our loving God with childlike trust, using the words that Jesus gave us: *Our Father...*

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord God, we thank you for calling us to be Jesus' disciples. We ask you to bless this retreat today. Inspire our speakers with your truth, your love and your joy. Make us receptive to their message; may it take root in our hearts and increase our joy as we await the fullness of your Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your Son. Amen.

And may Almighty God bless us: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.