

# SESSION PLAN

## CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME

### 4

## The Church

### A Community of Believers



#### AIMS

1. To appreciate that as human beings we belong to many different groups.
2. To understand that as Christians we belong to The Church.
3. To gain a deeper understanding of the Catholic Church.
4. To reflect on how to be of service by helping out in groups and ministries that operate within the Church.

#### PRAYER

- Welcome candidates
- Introduce the short reading Acts 2: 42-47
- Read through the passage and invite candidates to reflect on the way the Early Christians behaved.

#### KEY WORDS

- Groups, Clubs
- Community
- Catholic Church
- Parish/Diocese
- Bishop; Pope
- Ministry

#### RESOURCES

- Worksheet 4
- Prayer Sheet 4
- Pictures of Bishop and Pope
- Images, posters or publicity of Catholic groups and organisations.

#### NOTES

As this session deals with groups and organisations you may want to invite members from the various groups in the parish to briefly talk about their work and explain how young people can get in touch.

#### MAIN SESSION

- Go through Part A. Invite candidates to talk about groups, clubs or other organisations they belong to. Elicit the fact that we all have a need to '**Belong**' and that different groups or clubs have different aims and targets.
- Explain that at Baptism we all became members of the Church. Ask candidates what they already know about the **Catholic Church**. Invite them to jot down brief phrases in the thought bubble in part B and share their ideas.
- Explain that the Catholic Church is one community founded by Jesus. (You may need to refer to other Christian Churches and briefly explain why they are Christian but not part of the Roman Catholic Church.)
- Follow through the rest of Part B. Lead the discussion on the different levels within the Church.
  - a. **Parish:** Talk about the name of the Parish, parish priest and other basic facts that candidates should be aware of as parishioners.
  - b. **Diocese:** Explain how a diocese is a 'collection' of parishes in one area led by a **Bishop**. Talk about the name of the Diocese and maybe other neighbouring ones. Show picture of bishop/bishops. Ask candidates if they know who their bishop is and that he will be the one who will preside over their Confirmation ceremony.
  - c. **Universal Church:** Show a picture of the Holy Father/**Pope** and ask if candidates are aware of who he is. Explain that as the successor of St Peter he is the Head of the Church on Earth and although he lives at the Vatican City he is the leader of all Catholics throughout the world.
- Move on to Part C and explain that as members of the Church we are expected to be active and always seek to contribute and help out in the various ministries in the Church. Confirmed Christians need to understand that they need to be willing to be of service to others within the Church.
- Invite candidates to talk about groups, societies and organisations in their parish or diocese. Talk about the different aims of the various groups and discuss how one can get involved and help out. E.g.: Choir, Readers, Servers, Children's Liturgy, SVP, CAFOD, etc.

#### CONCLUSION/REFLECTION

- Create a prayerful atmosphere.
- Introduce the Prayer by St Francis highlighting the words 'make me an instrument'. Invite one of the candidates to read or the whole group to recite together and reflect upon.