



Consecration in Truth®

## Family Catechesis

*Educates adults in the truths of the faith and empowers them to lead their families in learning and living the faith. Taught by Roman Curia Cardinal Francis Arinze.*



### Discussion Guide 20A

## Baptism and Confirmation (Questions 201, 204)

### The Apostolate's Family Catechism™

#### Opening Prayer (5 min.)

Gospel Reading (see Liturgical Calendar box).  
Pause to reflect. When you are ready, end with an Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be. Announce the *Liturgical Season* and the *Significant Feast Days* for the week.

#### Recitation of Memory Verse (5 min.)

**Ephesians 1:3-4** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.

#### Discussion and Sharing on

#### *The Apostolate's Family Catechism* (40 min.)

- Announce the topic and questions to be covered.
- Watch Commentaries with Cardinal Arinze video **Q# 201 and 204** (4½ min.). Discuss.
- Read **Q# 201 and 204** aloud and discuss the answers. Point out the illustrations and diagrams and allow family members to explain them. Read the captions on the illustrations. Read the Scripture quotes.
- Discuss the "Doctrine, Moral, Worship Exercises" at the end of **Q# 201** and the "Thought Provokers" related to **Q# 204** at the end of **Chapter 59**.

#### Closing Prayer (10 min.)

Invite everyone who wishes, to express their prayers of thanksgiving at this time.

End by praying the **Chapter 59** Summary Prayer.



### Liturgical Calendar

- Season: Advent
- Upcoming Sunday Readings:  
First Reading Is 61:1-2A, 10-11  
Second Reading 1 Thes 5: 16-24  
Gospel Reading John 1: 6-8, 19-28
- Significant Feast Days This Week:  
St. John of the Cross,  
Priest + Doctor of the Church



### Scripture Memory Verse

*Look up in personal Bible, copy, and memorize*

#### Mark 16:16

He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.



### Family Activity

#### Dying and Rising

In Baptism we die with Christ and rise with him. "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." **John 12:24**

Plant a seed in a pot (marigolds germinate in 2-4 days). Water and wait for it to sprout. When the sprout can be grasped with fingers, gently dig it up. What happened to the seed? Discuss how our sinful life (the seed) passed away in Baptism and our new life in Christ (the sprout) is growing.

Alternative: instead of growing from a seed, use cooking sprouts from the grocery.



## The Sacrament of Baptism - I

### Q. 201. What is Baptism?

Baptism is the sacrament (1) *of our rebirth as children of God*, (2) *of our unity with Jesus in His death and Resurrection*, (3) *of our being cleansed of Original Sin and personal sins*, and (4) *of our being welcomed into the community of the Church, the Mystical Body of Christ*.

1. *Baptism is the sacrament of our rebirth as children of God.*

Baptism is directed toward our participation in the fullness of Christ's divine life. By this sacrament a man becomes truly incorporated into Christ and is reborn to a sharing in the divine life. Baptism is our new birth as children of God, a beginning of a new life in us, God's own life of grace brought to us by Jesus Christ. (cf. V.S., Section 118)

It is Christ Himself Who baptizes and makes us holy with the gifts of the Holy Spirit and impresses on the soul a character or mark that cannot be taken away.

2. *Baptism is the sacrament of our unity with Jesus in His death and Resurrection.*

Baptism unites the new Christian so closely with Jesus that he shares in Christ's death and Resurrection. Through this sacrament he dies to his old self and rises to new life. St. Paul says, "Know you not that all we, who are baptized in Christ Jesus, are baptized in His death? For we are buried together with Him by Baptism into death; that as Christ is risen from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also may walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:3-4).

3. *Baptism cleanses the soul from Original Sin and from all personal sins.*



See Papally Promulgated  
**Catechism of the Catholic Church**

Q. 201. See paragraph: 1213

See encyclical **Veritatis Splendor** (Splendor of Truth)

Q. 201. See section: 118

The result of Baptism is that a person is reconciled with God. His sins are forgiven, he receives a sharing in the life of God, and becomes part of God's people. Jesus said, "For God so loved the world as to give His only begotten Son; so that whoever believes in Him may not perish, but may have life everlasting. For God did not send His Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world may be saved by Him" (John 3:16-17).

Water is a sign of life-giving and of cleansing. The words signify that the life the person enters is that of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit unites us to Jesus, so that we may share with Him the life of God He brought into the world.

#### *4. A person enters the Church by a new birth in Baptism.*

The Church has always held that Baptism is necessary to become a member. For the believing Christian, the Catholic Church is the only place where he can live out his faith to the fullest. He needs to hear the Gospel again and again and to be a part of the continuing work of Jesus in the world. He needs the company of his fellow Christians as he grows in faith.

#### ***Sacred Scripture***

"They, therefore, that received his [Peter's] word were baptized. And there were added that day about three thousand souls." *Acts 2:41*

"He that believes and is baptized, shall be saved: but he that believes not, shall be condemned." *Mark 16:16*

St. John says, "And as many as received Him, He gave them power to be made the sons of God, to them that believe in His name" (John 1:12). Jesus said to Nicodemus, "Amen, amen I say to you, unless a man is born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God" (*John 3:3*).

#### ***Vatican Council II***

"From the marriage of Christians there comes the family in which new citizens of human society are born and, by the grace of the Holy Spirit in Baptism, those are made children of God so that the People of God may be perpetuated throughout the centuries." *The Church, 11*

"By the sacrament of Baptism, whenever it is properly conferred in the way the Lord determined and received with the

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**Prayer:** Lord, give  
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as Your adoptive  
likeness of Christ  
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Accept us into the  
Church. Keep  
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Amen.

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proper dispositions of soul, man becomes truly incorporated into the crucified and glorified Christ and is reborn to a sharing of the divine life, as the Apostle says: 'For you were buried together with Him in baptism, and in Him also rose again through faith in the working of God who raised Him from the dead' (Romans 6:4)." *Ecumenism, 22*

"By Baptism men are grafted into the paschal mystery of Christ; they die with Him, are buried with Him, and rise with Him; they receive the spirit of adoption as sons 'in which we cry, Abba, Father' (Rom. 8:15), and thus become true adorers such as the Father seeks." *Sacred Liturgy, 6*

**Prayer:** Lord God, in Baptism we die with Christ to rise again in Him. Strengthen us by Your Spirit to walk in the newness of life as Your adopted children. You have renewed us in Baptism in the likeness of Christ Your Son and have united us to Your priestly people.

Accept us through the sacrifice of Your Son offered by Your Church. Keep us one in Christ Jesus the Lord, and may our names be written in the Book of Life, for we are born to new life by water and the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Chapter Summary Prayer

Father in Heaven, You gave us the Easter mystery as our covenant of reconciliation. May the new birth we celebrate in Baptism show its effects in the way we live. Bring to perfection the spirit of life we receive from Your heavenly gifts. Free us from our attachment to the passing things of life and help us to set our hearts on the Kingdom of Heaven.

You are present in the Sacrament of our Baptism. Renew Your Spirit of adoption in us who were born again in this sacrament. May the work of our humble service be brought to perfection by Your mighty power. Quicken the spirit of sonship in Your Church, and renew us in mind and body to

give You whole-hearted service. May all of us, who were buried with Christ in the death of Baptism, also rise with Him to newness of life.

**H**eavenly Father, we have been buried with Christ in Baptism, so that we may rise with Him to a new life. We now renew the promises we made in Baptism when we rejected satan and his works, and promised to serve You faithfully in Your holy Catholic Church.

**W**e reject satan, and all his works, and all his empty promises. We reject sin, so as to live in the freedom of God's children. We reject the glamor of evil, and refuse to be mastered by sin. We reject satan, father of sin and the prince of darkness. We believe in You, God the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth. We believe in Jesus Christ, Your only Son, our Lord, Who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at Your right hand.

**W**e believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.

**F**ather, make us mindful of the dignity You gave us in Baptism, and may we live for You in every moment of our lives. We ask this in the Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

## Cross-References for Chapter 92

### Q. 201. What is Baptism?

#### Catechisms / Theology Books

- The Teaching of Christ* [First Edition], Lawler, Wuerl and Lawler, pp. 457-471;  
*The Teaching of Christ* [Second Edition], Lawler, Wuerl and Lawler, pp. 447-461;  
*The Catholic Catechism*, Hardon, pp. 505-513;  
*Fundamentals of Catholicism*, Baker, Vol. 3, pp. 194-213 (especially pp. 194-195);  
*Basics of the Faith: A Catholic Catechism*, Schreck, pp. 155-163;  
*The Church's Confession of Faith*, German Bishops' Conference, pp. 271-275;



## The Sacrament of Confirmation

### Q. 203. What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is a sacrament that confirms or strengthens the life of the Spirit which a person received at Baptism. In virtue of this sacrament, the faithful are obliged to spread and defend the Faith as true witnesses of Christ. (cf. V.S., Section 107, 108)

The principal sign of Confirmation is made by the Bishop, or priest, when he lays his hand upon the forehead of the candidate, anointing him with chrism [consecrated olive oil and balsam], and prays, "Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit."

This sacrament, which seals a candidate with the Spirit, is linked with the other sacraments of Christian initiation — Baptism and the Eucharist.

After Baptism, through the Sacrament of Confirmation, Jesus sends the Holy Spirit again to Christian souls with the new grace and new strength that are needed in Christian lives. In the third century, St. Cyprian wrote: "They who are baptized...are presented to the Bishops...and by our prayers and the imposition of hands they receive the Holy Spirit and are perfected with the seal of the Lord" (Epistle 73).

Candidates renew their baptismal promises before Confirmation because of the intimate connection that there is between Confirmation and Baptism.

### Sacred Scripture

"Now when the Apostles, who were in Jerusalem, had heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John. Who, when they were come, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For



See Papally Promulgated  
**Catechism of the Catholic Church**

Q. 203. See paragraph: 1285

See encyclical **Veritatis Splendor** (Splendor of Truth)

Q. 203. See sections: 107, 108

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He was not as yet come upon any of them; but they were only baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid their hands upon them, and they received the Holy Spirit."

Acts 8:14-17

### **Vatican Council II**

"By the sacrament of Confirmation they are more perfectly bound to the Church and are endowed with the special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread the faith by word and deed." *The Church, 11*

(cf. V.S., Section 107, 108)

### **Q. 204. What does the seal of the Spirit do for us?**

The seal of the Spirit prepares us (1) *to be witnesses of Christ by living a mature Christian life* and (2) *to spread and defend the Faith while living in the world.* (cf. V.S., Section 26, 107)

1. *The seal of the Spirit prepares us to be witnesses of Christ by living a mature Christian life.*

Confirmation binds the Christian more perfectly to the Church and enriches him with a special strength of the Holy Spirit, that he may live in the world as a witness of Christ and serve his fellow men. (cf. V.S., Section 108)

When the Bishop, or priest, administering this sacrament, anoints a person with chrism he says, "Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit." Thus, by Confirmation, a baptized Christian becomes permanently marked as a witness and is obliged to communicate the Faith, with the price of his blood, if necessary. (cf. V.S., Section 76, 102, 107, 108)

### **Sacred Scripture**

"Now He that confirms us with you in Christ, and that has anointed us, is God: Who also has sealed us, and given the pledge of the Spirit in our hearts." *2 Corinthians 1:21-22*



*See Papally Promulgated  
Catechism of the Catholic Church*

Q. 204. See paragraphs: 698, 1295-1296, 1302-1305

See encyclical *Veritatis Splendor* (Splendor of Truth)

Q. 204. See sections: 25, 26, 76, 102, 107, 108



2. *The seal of the Spirit prepares us to spread and defend the Faith while living in the world.*

Incorporated into Christ's Mystical Body through Baptism, and strengthened by the Holy Spirit through Confirmation, the laity are assigned to the apostolate, or the general mission of the Church, by the Lord Himself. We should remember the duty that was placed upon us when we were confirmed: we have the task of bringing Jesus Christ, His example, His way of life, and His Church to others. The strength which the grace of the Holy Spirit gives us will help us each day to fulfill our apostolate, if we are generous enough to show some effort and to ask for His help in prayer. (cf. V.S., Section 25, 107, 108)

### ***Vatican Council II***

"The term 'laity' is understood to mean all the faithful except those in Holy Orders and those who belong to a religious state approved by the Church. That is, the faithful, who by Baptism are incorporated into Christ, are placed in the People of God, and in their own way they share the priestly, prophetic and kingly office of Christ. To the best of their ability, they carry on the mission of the whole Christian people in the Church and in the world.

"Their secular character is proper and peculiar to the laity." *The Church*, 31

"From the fact of their union with Christ the head flows the laymen's right and duty to be apostles. Inserted as they are in the Mystical Body of Christ by baptism and strengthened by the power of the Holy Spirit in confirmation, it is by the Lord himself that they are assigned to the apostolate." *Lay People*, 3

"The apostolate, through which the laity build up the Church, sanctify the world and get it to live in Christ, can take on many forms.

"A special form of the individual apostolate is the witness of a whole lay life issuing from faith, hope and charity; it is a sign very much in keeping with our times, and a manifestation of Christ living in his faithful. Then, by the apostolate of the word, which in certain circumstances is absolutely necessary, the laity proclaim Christ, explain and spread his teachings, each one according to his condition and competence, and profess those teachings with fidelity." *Lay People*, 16



"The faithful who have already been consecrated in Baptism and Confirmation are fully incorporated in the Body of Christ by the reception of the Eucharist." *Priests, 5*

"As members of the living Christ, incorporated into Him and made like Him by baptism, confirmation and the Eucharist, all the faithful have an obligation to collaborate in the expansion and spread of His body, so that they might bring it to fullness as soon as possible (cf. Eph. 4:13).

"So all the children of the Church should have a lively consciousness of their own responsibility for the world, they should foster within themselves a truly Catholic spirit, they should spend themselves in the work of the Gospel. However, let everyone be aware that the primary and most important contribution he can make to the spread of the faith is to lead a profound Christian life." *Missionary Activity, 36*

### Chapter Summary Prayer

*Almighty Father, in the death and Resurrection of Your own Son, You brought us through the waters of Baptism to the shores of new life. By those waters and by the fire of the Holy Spirit, You have given each of us consolation. In union with the sacrifice of Your beloved Son in the Mass, may our lives be a total offering to You, and may we deserve to enter Your heavenly home to praise Your unfailing power there with Christ.*

*Lord, send us Your Holy Spirit to help us walk in unity of faith and grow in the strength of His love to the full stature of Christ. You have signed us with the Cross of Your Son and have anointed us with the oil of salvation.*

*As we offer ourselves with Christ in His Eucharistic Sacrifice, continue to fill our hearts with Your Spirit. You give Your Son as food to those You anoint with Your Spirit. Help us to fulfill Your law by living in freedom as Your children. May we live in holiness and be Your witnesses to the world aided by the grace of the Holy Spirit.*

**L**ord, fulfill the promise given by Your Son by sending the Holy Spirit to enlighten our minds and to lead us to all truth. Help us to receive the gift of Your Spirit, so that He may remain in our hearts and bring us to the rewards of eternal life.

**G**od our Father, You have made us children by water and the Holy Spirit; bless us and watch over us with Your fatherly love.

**J**esus Christ, Son of God, You promised that the Spirit of truth would be with Your Church for ever; bless us and give us courage to profess the true Faith.

**H**oly Spirit, You came down upon the disciples and set their hearts on fire with love; bless us, keep us one in faith and love, and bring us to the joy of God's Kingdom. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### Cross-References for Chapter 94

#### Q. 203. What is Confirmation?

##### Catechisms / Theology Books

- The Teaching of Christ* [First Edition], Lawler, Wuerl and Lawler, pp. 472-479;  
*The Teaching of Christ* [Second Edition], Lawler, Wuerl and Lawler, pp. 462-469;  
*The Catholic Catechism*, Hardon, pp. 513-520;  
*Fundamentals of Catholicism*, Baker, Vol. 3, pp. 214-222;  
*Basics of the Faith: A Catholic Catechism*, Schreck, pp. 161-163;  
*The Church's Confession of Faith*, German Bishops' Conference, pp. 278-280;  
*Faith for Today*, Hogan and LeVoir, pp. 182-183;  
*Modern Catholic Dictionary*, Hardon, see "Confirmation" and "Sacraments of the Living";  
*Pocket Catholic Dictionary*, Hardon, see "Confirmation" and "Sacraments of the Living";  
*Fundamentals of Catholic Dogma*, Ott, p. 361.

##### Papal Documents

- On the Holy Spirit in the Life of the Church and the World*, John Paul II, sect. 25.

#### Q. 204. What does the seal of the Spirit do for us?