

# Candidate's Covenant

I \_\_\_\_\_, a member of St. Michael Catholic  
(print your name neatly)  
faith community in Wheaton, make the following covenant:

*I will make every effort to participate in Mass every Sundays and on Holy Days of Obligation.*

*As Christ calls us to live in peace with one another, I will seek to reconcile with those I have hurt and to avail myself of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.*

*I promise to attend the preparation classes and to participate in them to the best of my ability.*

*I will pray regularly and attempt to show love for others by using my skills and talents to serve while learning more about ministry within my parish community, within my neighborhood community, and within the larger community.*

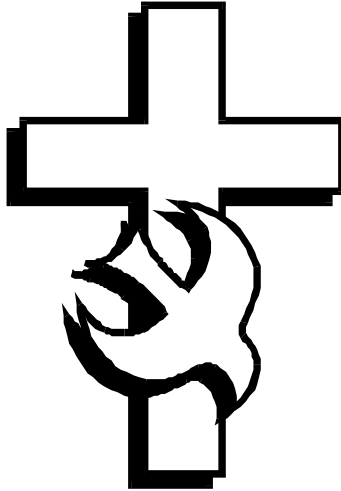
*I will exhibit appropriate Christian behavior in all my activities – academic, athletic, spiritual, and social – because I am choosing to follow Christ more fully as I freely begin Confirmation preparation.*

*I will respect each person at home, in all of my classes, and wherever God places me, and respect school property and that of others. This includes all my words (written or spoken) and all my actions.*

*I ask the community of St. Michael Parish to accept me as a candidate for the Holy Sacrament of Confirmation. I accept the responsibility to open my mind and my heart to the activities of the Holy Spirit during this time of preparation.*

Candidate's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



*As the disciples of Jesus were gathered together, the Spirit of God came upon them in tongues of fire, bringing the gifts of:*

***W**isdom (the ability to see things as they truly are in an open-minded manner),*

***U**nderstanding (a heart that accepts, cares, listens, forgives),*

***R**ight Judgment (the ability to make good and wise decisions),*

***K**nowledge (the ability to comprehend the truths of the universe),*

***C**ourage (the strength to do what is right in spite of challenges),*

***R**everence (a deep respect for God, for others, and for all creation), and*

***W**onder & Awe in God's Presence (a sense of the greatness and majesty of God coupled with a deep realization of His nearness).*

*Come, O Holy Spirit, come! Re-ignite within me the fire of your presence. Strengthen me again this day with your gifts. Support me as I strive to use these gifts and blessings for the good of others. Amen.*

*Candidate's Name* \_\_\_\_\_

*Shepherd's Name* \_\_\_\_\_

# Parent's Pledge

*I believe that my child, \_\_\_\_\_, should be recognized as a serious candidate for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Therefore, I pledge my support in the following ways:*

*I recognize this as a time of recommitment within our family and will use this time of preparation to strengthen our Catholic faith.*

*I will make every effort to bring my child to Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.*

*I will pray faithfully for my child and the other candidates for Confirmation; for the Sponsor that my child chooses; and for the Junior High Youth Ministry staff and volunteers.*

*I will be open to my child's questions about our Catholic faith and traditions.*

*I will be supportive of my child's service projects and homework assignments without taking over.*

*Personal Comments (optional)*

*Parent's Signature* \_\_\_\_\_

*Date* \_\_\_\_\_

# Being Catholic: What Does It Mean?

*by Brett C. Hoover, C.S.P.*

If you asked a hundred Catholics what it means to be Catholic, you probably wouldn't get a universal answer! If you picked apart their answers, though, you'd find a few things in common.

**1. God in Person.** Being a Catholic means following Jesus Christ. We trust in Jesus as the "Christ," the Messiah, the one chosen by God to save us. We also believe that Jesus was God come down from heaven who "became flesh and made his dwelling among us" (John 1:14).

**2. Sacramental Sense.** Catholics have a very sensitive sacramental outlook. We can see just about anything in this world as pointing to God. This stems from our belief that God became human, with all the weaknesses and limitations that entails. So every limited and imperfect thing is a potential sign of God's presence ("grace"). Creation itself is blessed by God and is a sign of God's generous love.

**3. God Pointers.** Because we see things and actions as symbols pointing to God, we tend to have a lot of things and actions in our worship. Among these, seven combinations of "things and actions" are termed Sacraments, with a capital "S"—Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Reconciliation (Confession), Anointing of the Sick, Matrimony and Holy Orders.

**4. God People.** We believe that people can also point us to God. Some are the "hall of famers" in heaven, like the Virgin Mary and the saints. Others are ordinary people who help show us the way here on earth. Some people say that Catholics worship these saints and the Virgin Mary, but we just honor them as guides and helpers.

**5. God's Family.** Christian community is Jesus' own school of divine experience. You find God there in relationship with other people. The best evidence of God still around is loving and being loved by others.

**6. God's Wisdom.** Christians hold on to the Bible, finding in its stories, dialogues and poems wisdom for all times and places. But Catholics don't believe that the Holy Spirit stopped working when the Bible was complete. The Spirit has always been with the Church, inspiring men and women of faith to speak further about God's plan for human beings. The result is what we call the tradition of the Church. This tradition includes essential teachings such as the Immaculate Conception and a vast wealth of history and practices. Not everything that happened in this history was good. Church leaders also burned witches and sponsored the Inquisition. What we now treasure is only the good things which have survived the test of time.

**7. God's Training.** So much wisdom about spirituality is found in Catholic tradition. Meditation, finding God in nature, uncovering your own potential, learning not to be afraid of death: All these are found in Catholic tradition. The Church teaches the disciplines of prayer, spiritual reading and sharing the faith.

**8. In God's Image.** Church teaching calls you to respect and do good to others, both those close to you and strangers. This way, you yourself become the love-filled people God wants you to be.

**9. God of Second Chances.** God is extraordinarily merciful. The Church has always been a hospital for sinners and not a house of perfect saints.