

Lyceum 135-February 19, 2026 – a forum to Think, Discuss, Share, and Learn from one another. Your input is welcomed - Iron sharpens iron.

Neighborhood “The 1826, in Connecticut, a farmer named Josiah Holbrook started a school for ‘the general diffusion of knowledge and raising the moral and intellectual taste’ of Americans. In those days, the opportunities for higher education were limited to those venerable old universities that had long served the upper crust. Holbrook’s vision was to make learning – practical, liberal, and humane – available to working people of all kinds. He named his school the Lyceum, after the garden where Aristotle once taught his students philosophy.... We need to go deeper than the superficial fights that characterize public life. We need to return to the first principles and meet each other there as human beings.”– Nathan Beacom, Plough Magazine, Autumn 2023, p. 9.

We continue to highlight a sacrament weekly, having completed baptism, penance, eucharist and now confirmation.

Sacraments – Moments of Grace. A source of spirituality of spiritual nourishment and growth. Reflections on the Sacraments of Baptism, Penance, Eucharist, **Confirmation**, Marriage, Ordination, and Anointing of the Sick. -Roger J. Vanden Busch.

Resurrection Parish – Confirmation Program.

The following are potential resources to further enhance your knowledge and understanding of the spectrum of our Christian/Catholic beliefs, practices, and guidelines. One of the following resources below plus the weekly reflection, exegesis, and commentary on the scriptures for each Saturday/Sunday will be sent to parents/confirmands on the Monday of each week. When receiving these weekly resources, please read, review, and discuss as a family, with your sponsor, or individually as a confirmand to increase your overall knowledge and understanding of the various dimensions of your Catholic/Christian traditions. We welcome any other suggestions, recommendations, or questions you may have. Our hope is to add to the resources suggested below so that there will be an on-going catechesis throughout each week of the liturgical year until the day of your confirmation.

Mary, former Director of the Confirmation program and Roger Vanden Busch, consultant/facilitator.

Criteria as foundational to the Confirmation program and preparation: Grace builds on nature, that is, mending the mind and minding the body on your confirmation journey.

1. **Confirmands, parents, and sponsors will be coordinated with the liturgical year's scriptures and its meanings, messages, and challenges via the weekly Confirmation Corner.**
2. **Sacramental – Grace builds on nature, thus there will be an emphasis on the maturation of the confirmands in terms of their spiritual, theological, ethical, and psychological developments to be explored and applied appropriately to each person's growth and development.**
3. **Service, Stewardship, and Discipleship engagement and involvement activities will be emphasized and encouraged.**
4. **Knowledge of Catholic creedal teachings, topics, and trivial pursuits will be highlighted and discussed.**
5. **A hands-on retreat experience promoting faith, trust, support, and community.**
6. **Confirmation as Sacrament: Choice, Commitment, Confirm, and Courage.**

7. Catholic Social Teaching

a. Life and Dignity: Society must find the right to life by finding increasingly effective ways to prevent conflicts and resolve those we do have by peaceful means.

b. Call to Family, Community, and Participation: People have the right and duty to participate in society, seeking together the common good and well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable.

c. Rights and Responsibilities: Everyone has a fundamental right to those things required for human decency.

d. Option for the Poor and Vulnerable: A basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring. In a society marred by deepening divisions between the rich and the poor, our tradition instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.

e. The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers: The economy must serve people, not the other way around. Work is more than a way to make a living. It is a form of continuing participation in God's creation. If the dignity of work is to be protected then the basic rights of workers must be respected—the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to the organization and joining the unions, to private property, and to economic initiative.

f. Solidarity: We are one human family whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. We are our brothers and sisters' keepers, wherever they may be. Loving our neighbor has global dimensions in a shrinking world. At the core of the virtue of solidarity is the pursuit of justice and peace.

g. Care for God's Creation: We are called to protect people and our planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation.

8.. Gifts of the Holy Spirit

a. Wisdom: Helps us recognize the importance of others and the importance of keeping God central in our lives.

b. Understanding: The ability to comprehend the meaning of God's message.

c. Knowledge: The ability to think about and explore God's revelation, and to recognize there are mysteries of faith beyond us.

d. Counsel: The ability to see the best way to follow God's plan when we have choices that relate to him.

e. Fortitude: The courage to do what one knows is right.

f. Piety: Helps us pray to God in true devotion.

g. Fear of the Lord: The feeling of amazement before God, who is all present, and whose friendship we do not want to lose.

9. Pen Pals: www.penpalschools.com

a. Class code: yi79626

b. Pick a Social Justice Project

c. Click on Learn with Pen Pals

d. Sign In

10. DoSomething.org: Opportunity to you to share your project for a potential scholarship.

11. Global Citizen: www.globalcitizen.org

Confirmation: A poem - Dancing with the Lord

When was the last time you danced with the Lord?

“One evening the Lord asked me to dance.

As we moved across the floor, I was fearful of being out of step or even stumbling over his feet.

“Follow me,” he said, quietly.

I let go and became a hesitant follower of his rhythm, his music, and his movements.

We continued to spin, turn, circle as one, for Jerusalem seemed so far into the night.”

A story

Once upon a time an adolescent girl and boy hatched a plan to stump a wise seer by posing a mental puzzler. Imagine that the seer to be the sacrament of Confirmation. They approached the seer, and with an overconfident voice asked the seer: “I have a bird in my hand, Is it dead or alive?” The adolescents figured that if the seer said, “Alive,” the bird would be crushed to prove the seer to be wrong. If the seer said, “Dead,” they would open their hands and let it fly away, again proving the seer wrong. The wise seer thought for a moment, looked up, and said, “The answer lies solely in your hands.”

What kind of choices are we faced with, especially for the youth of the parish? To lie or to tell the truth, to cheat or to be honest, to be sexually active or to remain abstinent, to use drugs or to remain drug free, to drink alcohol or to remain alcohol free, to smoke or not to smoke, to faithfully complete your school assignments or not, plus a hundred other ethical dilemmas – what do I do when no one is watching? With the Holy Spirit’s spiritual enlightenment, solid critical thinking skills balanced with a healthy array of positive emotions, and the support of family, relatives, teachers, and friends, we can make choices that are positive, healthy, and responsible. We stand at the fork in the road of our life’s journey – the choice is yours.

It was Robert Frost who wrote in his poem The Road Not Taken-“Two roads diverged in a yellow wood, and sorry I could not travel both, and one traveler, long I stood; and looked down one as far as I could; to where it bent in the undergrowth....I shall be telling this with a sigh, somewhere ages and ages hence; two roads diverged in a wood, and I – I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference.” I hope your learning experience is similar.

Hopefully, we can appreciate that poetry and story can stimulate our creative, imaginative energies to soar and to touch the very face of God. Our faith is cracked open by the force and power of personal stories and proclaimed from the depth of a poetic soul on fire. If not on the day of our confirmation or leading up to the day, unless our heads sink into the heart of our sacramental pilgrimage nourished by the waters of life (baptism), the bread of salvation (Eucharist), and the spirit of strength (your confirmation), the Holy Spirit will simply perch on the limb of your souls and not take flight uplifted by the winds of God's grace and love. The choice is yours. Poetry and story, mixed with sacraments, whether we realize it or not, can tickle our feet to dance and sing in the presence of the Lord.

Who says Pope Francis does not understand the hearts and minds of adolescents. Pope Francis made the same point when speaking to a group of Italian students approaching Confirmation. Remember, he said, Confirmation is not the *sacramento di arrivaderci!* (The sacrament of "see ya later"). Is this true that once these budding adolescents are confirmed it is "see ya later?"

CONFIRMATION HAIKUS as composed by the Confirmands.

Jesus lives in me. /The Holy Spirit guides me. /God is with me now.

The Spirit in me. /Carries me daily forward. /On the righteous path.

I come as I am./Embrace me with your fire. /Unite with love.

God's greater presence. /Spiritual knowledge and love. /In the life we live.

Becoming closer. /To God in life and spirit. /To grow in the church.

Love always flows. /Father, Son, Holy Spirit. /Always there with me.

Confirm me O Lord. /Lift me up on wings of Grace. /Soaring in your love.

Living in God's world, /Spreading his words of wisdom. /Being imperfect.

Created by him. /By my faith and love shaped me. /Through the Holy Spirit.

Revive me with faith. Reach into my heart, O God. /Fill me with your Grace.

Open arms to Christ. /Welcoming Catholic teachings. /Accepting God's love.

Living through God's ways. /Choosing to follow God's ways. /Confirm me, oh Lord.

Confirm under God. /Bathed in his light and Glory. /To spread his holy words.
Please confirm me, Lord. /For I want to soar with you. /Your Love and Glory.
Living in God's grace. / In the presence of the Lord. / Help us do his will.
God is all around. /I feel him with my family. /He loves and protects.
Confirmation is...Showing my faith and God's love. / In my life always.
My Grace for others. /Is the Lord's presence in me. /Be my light, O Lord.
Help me Lord, please do. /Raise me up to Love and guide. /Help me Love deeply.
Help guide me, O Lord. /Guide me with open kindness. /In this world of fear.
In the sun shining. /In the water sparkling. /In God, the Father.
Come to me, O Lord. /Further my faith in your love, /Your humble servant.
Worship is a choice. /And it can be confusing. /But God will Love you.
The world is Lonely. /Confirmation is Healing. /In Closeness to God.
Mountains rising tall. /Connecting the earth and sky. /God is truly here.
Help me every day. /To spread your love to everyone. /Filled with your kindness.
Please God, confirm me. /Thank you for all you give me. /Bring me closer to God.
Lord God, pray for her. /Guide her in the way of Christ. /Bring her close to God.
The Holy Spirit. /Creator of life and church. /And the endless Love.
Creator of Life and Love. /Forgiveness and communion. /Holy Bond of Life.
Become an adult. /In Catholic community. /And honor the Lord.
Commitment to God. /Every day of my life. /Living out your will.
I'm getting confirmed. /To help grow my religion. /Pass on traditions.
I am her sponsor. /Please guide her throughout this. /So, she is confirmed.
God calls us to be/strong disciples of the church /through Confirmation.
Oh, Holy Spirit, /guide Rachel in her faith life, /now and forever.
Confirm me, oh Lord. /Guide me in my faith journey, /Today and always.
Working towards your Grace. /Accepting me and my mistakes. /With me forever.

Accepting that He/is present in me, and you. /In community.

Beautiful face of/Jesus, mirror reflection. /A soul perfection.

Reflections on Confirmation retreat- October 8, 2023—connecting or relating a scriptural/spiritual dimension to the activities that the confirmands will be engaged in.

1. Zip-lining – 2 Samuel 22:11 – “God and I were seen on the wings of the wind.”
2. Wall climbing – Micah 4:2 – “We shall come and say, ‘let us climb the mountain of the Lord.’”
3. Climbing/hiking – Psalm 78:35 – “Then they remembered that God was their rock, and the most-high your redeemer.”
4. Having fun – Psalm 118:24 – “This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice, be glad, and have fun.”
5. Strength/endurance – Habakkuk 3:19 – “The Lord God is my strength, he will make my feet like deer’s feet, and He will walk with me on lofty heights.”
6. Refuge/safety/help – Psalm 46:1 – “God is our refuge and help, a help in times of trouble, anxiety, or fear.”
7. Team player – 2 Corinthians 9:7 – “So let each one give and help the other, for God loves a cheerful giver.”
8. Breath/life – Job 27:3 – “As long as my breath is in me, the breath of God is in my nostrils.”
9. We are lifted – Exodus 19:4 – “You have seen how I have lifted you up on eagle’s wings and brought you to myself.”
10. Gratitude for this day – Psalm 105:1 – “Give thanks to the Lord for his blessings; call upon his name today and every day.”

A mini retreat for Sponsors and Confirmands: Have a discussion and answer the following twelve questions.

My wife, Mary and I facilitated the confirmation programs for two years, and for one session we provided for a mini retreat for the confirmand and the sponsor to answer

the following questions. Mary and I first modeled for them. Here are Roger's testimonies.

1. Do you believe in the surrounding and permeating presence of God?
Example or experience?

Yes, I believe in nature mysticism, that is, God is in everything and continually speaking to us through human nature and to all of creation. Everything in the universe is sacred and interconnected – “when I touch a flower, a disturb a star in the universe.” -Francis Thompson. I believe in Incarnational Theology – The Word – the Logos – was made flesh and all of creation is sacred and a manifestation of God's goodness and love.

2. Do you have a personal relationship with Jesus? Example or experience?

Yes, my favorite meditation is sitting on a rock next to Jesus, surrounded by water, being with him in silence; and he listens when I share the inner world of my soul with him. Also, Jesus is in disguise daily in others and situations I am faced with – what would He do or say, especially in facing and resolving ethical dilemmas? My favorite scripture passage is Acts 18:27 – “It is in Jesus that I live, move, and have my being.” Striving to live my relationship with Jesus in word and in deed for the next message or opportunity to be an “alter Christus.”

3. Do you believe in the animating and vital energy of the Holy Spirit? Example or experience?

Yes, I experience its energy and insights when I practice the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and I strive to live a life of virtuosity. There is the onrush of a good feeling which strengthens and uplifts my soulfulness.

4. As a sponsor, do you know and celebrate the day and month you were confirmed?

Yes, I do – June 3, age 13. Was it your choice to be confirmed? In my younger years, I was taught to be respectful of the Church's and my parents' wishes, requirements, and traditions; thus, I trusted their faith and good judgment; and I wanted to follow their expectations for me to be confirmed. Since my confirmation, I have matured in

my faith life, and I have become more independent in deciding how to live my religious beliefs, thus affirming, and confirming my confirmation commitment.

5. As a candidate, is it your choice to be confirmed or are there pressures to be confirmed? Example or experience?

6. Do you pray daily? Example or experience?

Yes, I meditate in the morning for 13-20 minutes, being still, contacting my breath, and saying the Jesus prayer then and throughout the day, “Lord Jesus Christ, son of the living God, have mercy on me a sinner. And as part of the student body at Premontre High School, everyday throughout the four years of high school, we prayed, and I still pray daily today the following– Merciful God, give us the grace to desire what is most pleasing to you, to search for it wisely, to know it truly, and to accomplish it faithfully for the glory of your name through Jesus Christ our Lord by the working of the Holy Spirit. “Pray will not save me but make me worth saving.” -Rabbi Heschel.

7. Do you attend Eucharist on a regular basis? Example or experience?

Yes, weekly and at times during the week. Presently my wife and I are actively involved in Resurrection Parish as parishioners; and my wife is the parish’s business administrator, middle/high school faith formation; and I as a volunteer – both of us are sharing our gifts, talents, and faith life.

8. Can you remember the main theme of the Gospel from your last attendance at Eucharist and its challenge for you? Example or experience?

Yes, I can since I have been writing reflections on the weekly scriptures of the Catholic Liturgical Year since 1983.

9. Do you regularly practice acts of charity? Example or experience?

Yes, I follow the saying of Mother Teresa, “to do small acts of kindness with love.”

10. Are you proud of your Christian heritage and its traditions?

Example or experience? Yes, I am knowledgeable of them historically, and I have selected different traditions over the years which have become integral to my faith life – participation in the sacraments, prayer, meditation, spiritual and corporal works of mercy, rosary, and regular profession of the Nicene Creed.

11. Sponsors and Confirmands: What was/is the confirmation name you have chosen and why?

Joseph, my grandfather on my mother’s side who was my model, mentor, and motivator; he arose every morning to attend the 6:30 am Eucharist at SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Green Bay.

12. As a sponsor and candidate, what will your mission be to live out the Catholic Social Teaching of Rights and Responsibilities? (Please feel free to use the Scriptural references on the opening letter.)

Presently, I regularly write to my Representatives in Congress to encourage them to promote the social teachings of rights and responsibilities, such as human rights are universally relative for every single human being, and not to support the bills that would suppress voting rights for persons of color, the marginalized, and LGBTQ communities.

These responses are not exhaustive, yet fundamental to my Christian spirituality, religious beliefs, and manifested in my words and deeds.

Roger J. Vanden Busch

February 1, 2022

Confirmation presentation and group participation of the 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit – November 3, 2021 - Worksheet. Head (Wisdom, Understanding, Knowledge, Counsel); Heart (Piety and Fear of the Lord); Hands (Fortitude); and The Holy Spirit.

Introduction: Roger Vanden Busch, 15 minutes.

On the gifts of the Holy Spirit, Pope Francis explains that “The Spirit Himself is ‘the gift of God’ par excellence (John 4:10), He is a gift of God, and He in turn communicates various spiritual gifts/virtues to those who receive Him.”

The gifts of the Holy Spirit — (head) wisdom, understanding, knowledge, counsel, (heart) piety and fear of the Lord; and hands (fortitude) — help us to live our lives conformed to God’s plan. The Catechism of the Catholic Church describes them by saying, “They belong in their fullness to Jesus Christ, Son of David. They continue to strengthen the virtues of those who receive and live them in their daily lives by being prayerfully open and receptive to the continuous graces of the Holy Spirit.” (an adaptation of 1831).

Video: The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Activity 1: While each of us receives the gifts of the Holy Spirit via grace (Grace renders us like God, makes us partake in God’s divine nature – St. Thomas Aquinas) in special ways at Baptism, Holy Communion, Reconciliation, Confirmation, Marriage, Holy Orders and the Anointing of the Sick, Today, we focus on the 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit. Choose one of the seven gifts and share a present, personal experience/example which exemplifies that gift in your life. If one doesn’t come to heart/mind, that’s okay. We’re here to explore. -20 minutes.

Head

1. “And Wisdom is precisely this: it is the grace of being able to see everything with the eyes of God. It is simply this: it is to see the world, to see situations, circumstances, problems, everything through God’s eyes.” — Pope Francis, papal audience April 9, 2014.

Wisdom moves people into action, but not the reckless action of those who rush in where angels fear to tread. Wisdom is geared to making decisions that demonstrate awareness of what truly is at stake in situations involving oneself, others, and the world — situations that call us all to give the best of ourselves. In simpler terms, wisdom means exercising good judgment. It calls for a willingness to discover, to discern what a situation staring us in the face involves and what others genuinely need, not solely what we need or want.

2. “This gift enables us to Understand life as God understands it complexities and challenges, with the mind of God. For one can understand a situation with human understanding, with prudence, and this is good. But to understand a situation in depth, as God understands it, is the effect of this gift.” — Pope Francis, papal audience April 30, 2014.

This gift helps us to see our everyday circumstances in light of God’s revelation. It challenges us to move beyond asking “what would Jesus do,” to decide to actually follow His example.

3. The Knowledge that comes from the Holy Spirit, however, is not limited to human knowledge; it is a special gift, which leads us to grasp, through creation, the greatness and love of God and his profound relationship with every creature.” — Pope Francis, papal audience May 21, 2014

The key, of course, is taking to heart what we know and acting on it. That gives us a clue as to what “knowledge” means. Knowledge simply for knowledge’s sake, St. James suggested pointedly, means nothing without action inspired by that knowledge: “What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone says he has faith but does not have works?” (James 2:14).

There is, thus, a relationship between knowledge and the other gifts of the Holy Spirit. “If you receive my words and treasure my commands, turning your ear to wisdom, inclining your heart to understanding; yes, if you call for intelligence, and to understanding raise your voice; if you seek her like silver, and like hidden treasures search her out, then will you understand the fear of the Lord; the knowledge of God you will find. For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding” (Proverbs 2:1-6).

4. “Counsel, is the gift through which the Holy Spirit enables our conscience to make a concrete choice in communion with God, according to the logic of Jesus and his Gospel.” — Pope Francis, papal audience May 7, 2014

The gift of counsel is how the Holy Spirit acts within us to guide us as we encounter challenging situations and ethical dilemmas relative to our family, friends, school, or personal be they physical, emotional, intellectual, social, or spiritual.

Heart

5. “Piety indicates our belonging to God and our profound relationship with Him, a bond that gives meaning to our life and keeps us sound, in communion with Him, even during the most difficult and tormenting moments.” — Pope Francis, papal audience June 4, 2014

For what good is a gift of the Holy Spirit if it is not shared? At a June 2014 general audience in Rome, Pope Francis declared that the gift of piety “makes us gentle, makes us calm, patient, at peace with God, at the service of others with gentleness.” The challenge to minister with a “compassionate heart” is ongoing. It helps, though, to consider compassion and the piety from which it.

emanates as, like all God’s gifts, something to be shared. Because that which brings joy and comfort must be shared.

6. “Fear of the Lord, instead, is the gift of the Holy Spirit through whom we are reminded of how small we are before God and of His love and that our good lies in humble, respectful, and trusting self-abandonment into His hands. This is fear of the Lord: abandonment in the goodness of our Father who loves us so much.” — Pope Francis, papal audience June 11, 2014

Pope Francis clarifies that this fear is not the groveling type of fear but an “awareness of how small we are, with that attitude ... of one who places his every care and expectation in God and feels enfolded and sustained by his warmth and protection, just as a child with his parent(s)”

The fear of the Lord is more akin to wonder or awe. When the Holy Spirit dwells in our hearts, we realize just how small we are, how much we need to depend on our Father in heaven. The “fear of the Lord allows us to be aware that everything comes from grace.” The fear of the Lord is allowing us to be loved by God.

Hands

7. “Through the gift of Fortitude, the Holy Spirit liberates the soil of our heart, He frees it from sluggishness, from uncertainty and from all the fears that can hinder it, so that Lord’s Word may be put into practice authentically and with joy. The gift of fortitude is a true help, it gives us strength, and it also frees us from so many obstacles.” — Pope Francis, papal audience May 14, 2014

One of the most all-encompassing of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, fortitude supports us in living out the other six gifts and making our way faithfully through our earthly life to blessed eternity with God. The gift of fortitude equips us with a never-depleted reservoir of God-given perseverance and courage to live out our faith to the last breath, carrying us to heaven. The human, moral virtue of fortitude is developed each time we decide to do the right thing, approach a life challenge with faith, and say “yes” to God.

Activity 2: The following is an expansion of the gifts of the Holy Spirit from 7 to 50 virtues which, if recognized and lived out in our character and behavior – 15 minutes

Instructions: Review the listing of virtues on the following page, second choose any THREE that are a normal and regular part of your character; third, choose any THREE that are periodically part of your character; fourth, choose any THREE that are not part of your character, however, you would like to incorporate them into your habitual way of living your virtue ethics. Finally, briefly summarize your choosing of these virtues. Share your character profile with others.

A listing of virtues:

kindness, modesty, integrity, reliability, humor, insightfulness, sensitivity, gracefulness, civility, empathy, faithfulness, warmth, politeness, decency, commitment, sincerity, cheerfulness, trustworthiness, love, tactfulness, resiliency, magnanimity, persistence, resourcefulness, hospitality, creativity, consistency, loyalty, openness, enthusiasm, benevolence, steadfastness, liveliness, harmony, reasonableness, boldness, hopefulness, truthfulness, honesty, humility, dignity, amiability, tolerance, thoughtfulness, helpfulness, balance, cooperativeness, prudence, altruism, cool headedness, and broadmindedness.

Normal and regular part of my character:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Periodically part of my character which I would like to incorporate more often into my character profile:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Not (currently) part of my character that I would like to incorporate into my character profile:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

How would a parent, friend, or teacher describe your character profile? Check it out.

Activity 3 – Discuss the lyrics and challenges offered by the song: “Always be Gentle and Kind” – Tim McGraw

Be humble and kind, hold the door, say “Please,” “Thank you,” do not steal, lie, or cheat, honor your parents, do not hold grudges – let go, have a work ethic, be chaste, pursue your dreams, go to church cause momma says so, endurance, help the next in line, sense of play – popsicle and root beer, gratitude, mountains to climb, work

invested-reap rewards, visit grandpa and grandma, no free ride, I love you is no pick-up line, feel the pride-but stay humble, do not forget your roots. 15 minutes.

Personal notes – to be shared as appropriate.

I. Sacrament – outward sign instituted by Christ to bring grace to our souls - grace renders us like God, makes us participate in God’s divine nature.

a. Stories – bird, car, and flip-flops and cell phone

b. Sponge – dried up – set in water – it swells up with the grace of God, His Divine nature, we feel enhanced, enlivened, and enveloped.

c. Dad’s confirmation certificate – next November will be one hundred years old. You and I have built and confirmed our faith and sacramental life on the shoulders of our parents, godparents, relatives, teachers, and multiple influences.

d. I was baptized January 5, 41; holy communion April 7, 1949; and confirmed May 3, 1953 – seventh grade, age 13.

2. It requires waking up each day and recognizing everything as a gift. Nothing is mine. Everything is God’s. Every moment is holy and sacramental, an encounter with Christ and the opportunity to love him more. Just to Be is blessed and to Live is holy. -Rabbi Heschel. To begin each day with this affirmation. For four years each day of class, we as a school of 800 prayed the following prayer – Merciful God, give us the grace to desire what is most pleasing to you(heart), to search for it wisely(head), to know it truly(head), and to accomplish it faithfully(hands) through Christ our Lord. Also, the Jesus Prayer, breathing in, holding breath, and exhaling – “Lord(resurrected), Jesus (God is my salvation) Christ (anointed one), son of the Living God, have mercy on me a sinner. It is when we live out our faith through this radical love that Jesus shows us that we are close to the kingdom of God. God is closer to us than we are to our very selves.

3. University of Oregon – “We have a choice of what is easy or what is right – it is time to take a stand.

a. Interview after the Wisconsin/Iowa game – Leo Chenal, linebacker, Junior from Grantsburg, family of 15, 2020 honorable mention – had a great game – “I use God’s Grace to fuel my work.”

b. Out for a walk on Saturday, October 29 walking along Waubenor St. with no sidewalks; an oncoming car moving at about 40 to 45 miles an hour as we met at a slight curve, I gestured with my hands and said, “slow down” – he gave me the finger, I responded by making the sign of the cross as I said, “Bless you, my son.” Virtue or vice, grace, or gravel? The choice is yours.

4. God time and screen time – Meister Eckhart – “The eye with which I see God is the same eye God sees me.” The Eye is the sacrament, St. Augustine – “God you were with me, but I was not with you.” God time and screen time – the average teenager touches the face of their phone 985,000 times a year. Every moment is holy and sacramental, an encounter with God/Jesus/Holy Spirit. When you touch the screen, say, “Hey, God it is me – keep the sacramental graces alive – for grace renders me like God and connects me with the electrical charge and flow of the Holy Spirit.

5. October 28 – 4:15 pm – lost electrical power until 6:15 pm. We do not know what we got until it is gone – put up a parking lot. When we flip the switch, we turn on the power, the light, we connect with the electrical surge which is akin to the sacraments – baptism, penance, holy communion, and now confirmation.

6. Wizard of Oz – Scarecrow-brain-wisdom, understanding, knowledge, counsel; tin man – heart; and lion – courage

a. Watched Robin Hood – being in disguise he was in church by the vigil lights where the Lady of the exiled king was praying. He revealed his disguise, she said, “What are you doing here” Robin Hood responded – “Searching my soul, my Lady.”

b. Friar Tuck says that “God reveals himself in mysterious ways and thank you Lord for teaching me humility. There are no perfect people, only perfect intentions.”

Amen.