

SESSION PLAN

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME

6 Our Creed

What Catholics Believe

AIMS

1. To be able to identify and talk about what Catholics believe in and become more familiar with what we profess in our Creed.
2. To develop a better understanding of what the Catholic Church says about other faith and moral issues such as the Family, Life issues etc.

PRAYER

- Briefly talk about the fact that we gather in the name of God our Father when we come together .
- Invite everyone to pray the Our Father and to focus on the various key words and phrases in this prayer.

KEY WORDS

- Creed
- Believe
- Articles

RESOURCES

- Worksheet 6
- Prayer Sheet 6
- Newspaper articles or posters on controversial issues
- Catechism of the Catholic Church

NOTES

Invite candidates to find out more about issues discussed and similar ones. Suggest preparing a short presentation about a chosen theme in one of the future sessions.

MAIN SESSION

- Talk about the fact that our actions are usually based on things we **believe** in - basic principles we hold and believe in. Using the first part of Part A, invite candidates to talk about example of basic issues they believe in that influence their actions and behaviour. You may need to provide some prompting and give examples of issues discussed in the media e.g. the environment, war and peace issues, etc.
- Elicit the fact that as Christians we too have a basic set of beliefs that drive our actions and behaviour. The **Creed** is a list of these beliefs.
- Using the second part of Part A invite candidates to provide examples of one of the 'articles' in the Creed and lead a group discussion to ensure they understand what each means.
- Look at or read through the Apostles' or the Nicene Creed using a missalet or the one printed on Prayer Sheet 6. Talk about any articles not referred to in the preceding group discussion.
- Move on to Part B. Use some newspaper articles with headlines about controversial issues debated in the press e.g. the economy, the war, etc. Explain how many of these issues present a moral dilemma for many people not least Christians.
- Refer to the issues in the worksheet, namely Family life and Marriage; Life issues: Abortion and Euthanasia; the Environment. Invite candidates to talk about what they think about these issues.
- Explain that as Christians we have to look at these issues from a Christian point of view. We should always find out what God, the Bible say about these issues. We should also be able to know what the Catholic Church teaches about them (refer to 'The Catechism of the Catholic Church' and other similar publications).
- Part C: Say that as some of the Faith or moral issues discussed in today's session may be controversial we may have mixed feelings about some of them. Invite candidates to write a brief comment or prayer about their feelings with regards of the issues discussed. Some may wish to read out their comments in the final reflection. Explain that having mixed feelings is not a bad thing - though it is necessary to always seek the will of God when faced with these themes and issues in our lives.

CONCLUSION/REFLECTION

- Create a prayerful atmosphere and possibly play some background quiet music. Invite a few volunteers to read out their comments about their feelings.
- Together read out the Creed (Prayer sheet 6) as a final profession of our Christian Faith.