

Confirmation Day 1 Handout

1. What is Fr. Mike's main point about why be Catholic?

- a. Non-Catholics worship a different God.
- b. The authority of the Church comes from Jesus.
- c. Other religions are wrong.
- d. If you are raised Catholic, then you should remain Catholic to honor your parents.

Discuss:

I am Catholic because ...

2. Where do we get the idea that Jesus founded the Church and gave it authority to teach in his name?

- a. From the apostle Peter in 1 Peter 14
- b. From Jesus himself in Matthew 16:18
- c. From a pope in an ancient letter
- d. From a dream that Fr. Mike had when he was fifteen

Discuss:

Why does it matter where this idea comes from?

3. What are some of the examples Fr. Mike presents from history when the Church's clear authority was needed?

- a. The circumcision of Gentiles
- b. The controversy of Docetism
- c. The controversy of Arianism
- d. All of the above

Discuss:

Clear authority in the Church is needed so that ...

4. Why is it important that the Church is "visible" rather than just "spiritual"?

- a. In order to continue publication of the Bible
- b. An invisible Church cannot teach with authority, so we would have competing interpretations of what to believe.
- c. Without visible buildings, the people of God couldn't gather together.
- d. None of the above

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Discuss:

Thought experiment: The administration, faculty, and staff of a high school decide to go on vacation for a month. They leave no one in charge but instead leave a book of instructions on the doorstep of the school. What will they find when they get back?

5. Having an authority to settle disputes and to apply already established rules is critical in our daily lives.

Share a time when you were glad that there was an authority to settle a question or disagreement.

6. Fr. Mike said, paraphrasing G.K. Chesterton, "I don't need a Church to tell me when I'm right; I need a Church to tell me when I'm wrong."

Discuss what this means.

7. Do you ever struggle with accepting the authority of the Church on a particular Catholic teaching?

Based on Fr. Mike's presentation, how could you resolve your struggle?

8. Have you ever had difficulty reading and interpreting the Bible?

How does having a visible Church that teaches with authority help us understand the meaning of Scripture?

MATTHEW 16:15-19

"[Jesus] said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter replied, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.'"