

Holy Cinema: A Confirmation Journey

Overview

Using a movie, retreatants will explore the journey of faith as they consider how they can have a personal relationship with God, what that relationship has looked like thus far in their lives, and how love of God and others will affect their lives going forward. The candidates will have an opportunity to consider various aspects of themselves and how their actions and beliefs can be guided by the Holy Spirit.

Objectives

- Retreatants will understand the connection between one's life journey and one's faith journey.
- Retreatants will understand how faith influences their approach to life's obstacles.
- Retreatants will understand their call to follow their faith journey and be open to change.

Materials

- Bibles
- Handout/Retreat Journal (in additional PDF)

Timeline

Make a plan to meet with your retreatant in person or virtually, and to spend at least 4 hours together. Components include prayer, movie viewing, journaling, discussion questions, spiritual growth experience, culminating activity.

Retreat Outline

This retreat attempts to modify the traditional retreat experience into a retreat experience centering around the message of a contemporary movie broken into sessions with time to reflect and explore. The goal is to use the movie as a way to see that it is possible to find God in the every-day. When we become immersed in our faith we can find it anywhere, even in a movie or music. In short, we want to pray our way into the movie.

As you watch the movie, you will want to pay attention to the characters who are on the journey. They learn to grow into new roles and what those roles mean, not only to them but to other characters too. That is our Confirmation journey. The candidates are growing into a new role in the Church – one of a fully initiated member, and that means something.

Often we will enjoy a movie without thinking about God or our faith. Today, encourage the retreatants to enjoy the movie, but watch it specifically through the lens of our faith, and specifically through the lens of Confirmation. Often we can find a movie to be full of symbols. Sometimes those symbols are meant to point toward our faith, especially Jesus' death for our sins and His resurrection to new life.

On the day of your Retreat:

- **Begin with prayer.** Read together Jeremiah 29:11-14. Pick out one word that stood out to you. Share your word. Now read it again. Reflect on what God might be saying to you.
- **Watch the movie.** Stop at least 3 times to give retreatant a chance to journal (adults can write on sheet with Discussion Questions).
- **Discuss** answers to questions. Take your time. If your discussion leads to other topics, it's ok to follow those topics. Relate conversation to journey of faith. It takes time, it goes in many paths.
- Engage in a **spiritual growth experience:** Attend Mass live or virtually. Attend Adoration live or virtually. Go to the church and spend quiet time reading the Bible and in prayer (remember, Jesus is present in the tabernacle). Attend Taize prayer live or virtually. Where did you see God in this experience? What was hard for you?
- **Culminating Activity:** Taking all that we have experienced and reflected on today, looking at your reflection journals, *create an original piece* that explores how you will live out your faith in the coming year. It can be artwork, a poem, song, play, meme, collage, or any other original creation. (Materials suggested: clay/modelling dough, watercolors, colored pencils, oil pastels, crayons, markers, colored paper, lined paper, scissors, glue, etc.)
- **Closing Prayer:** intercessory prayer on last page of journal

Upon completion please submit all reflection items including journal and original art. They will be returned to you.

Resources:

Bible – Jeremiah 29:11-14 or usccb.org

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/jeremiah/29>

Movies:

A Wrinkle in Time (PG, 2018)

The Blind Side (PG-13, 2009)

The Devil Wears Prada (PG-13, 2006)

Captain America (PG-13, 2011)

Virtual Catholic Mass:

List of local parishes virtual Mass <https://catholiccourier.com/articles/list-of-parishes-with-livestreams-available>

National Catholic Broadcasting Council Daily TV Mass <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCi6JtCVy4XKu4BSG-AE2chg>

Ascension Presents Mass with Fr. Mike Schmitz https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=ascension+presents

Virtual Adoration:

Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rz5gektkFOo>

EWTN on Facebook – scroll down til you find Adoration <https://www.facebook.com/ewtnonline>

Eucharistic Adoration Chapels with Live Webcams <https://virtualadoration.home.blog/>

Virtual Taize:

Taize prayer service in English <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=llc1wYMa4g8>

Taize broadcast from Taize <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5OG6WGpk-Tg&t=287s>

Playlist of music in the style of Taize <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/426dyzz7Dg0fqPaDoPrZ2N>