



HENSCHKE PRIMARY SCHOOL
Our
Lady of Fatima Parish
CONFIRMATION PREPARATION – 2017
“Spirit Filled”



NOTE 3

Dear Parents,

Year 6 will have started work on their second Unit in the Confirmation program titled “**We Believe**”. We all carry within us our own personal images of *Church*; some of them are negative and some of them are positive. In this Unit we invite you, along with your children, to open your hearts and minds to the endless meanings and possibilities of being *Church!*

For our students, this is a real “hands on” Unit on belonging to the Church’. We begin by examining our understanding of the word ‘**CHURCH**’. We visit our parish church and check out the foundation stone out the front. (Have you ever read it?) Is this building what Church is all about?? If the building didn’t exist, do we still have church???. Many questions need to be addressed early in this Unit if the candidates are going to reach a deeper understanding of the topic.

We then return to scripture to examine and compare the church (in its infancy) with the modern Church. The students study the beautiful words of St. Paul about the ‘living body of Christ’. Within this context, students see the life and vitality of the Church as their mission and their responsibility.

During this Unit the children receive a letter inviting them to attend the Council of Nicea (325 AD) as Church leaders to discuss and decide the beliefs of the Church. After much debate and research the candidates are able to come up with a list of common beliefs (a creed) and a process for accepting and training new members. They are usually quite tough on new members and I don’t think many of us would get in! Fortunately our Church is not as tough!! The children also design and make their own mitres (Bishop’s hats) and wear robes for Council meetings. It is a very worthwhile and enjoyable feature of the program.

The children will also deepen their understanding of our Church leaders particularly St. Peter, Bishop Hanna and the present Pope.

SOME FAMILY ACTIVITIES:

- Celebrate the Mass weekly and joyfully, sharing with each other your understandings of the Church and the part you need to play.
- Constantly remind each other that “We are the Church!”
- Look at ways to become involved in your local Parish and Mass.
- Take full advantage of the Sacraments.
- Draw your family’s attention to articles and TV stories about the Church; its various organisations at work in society and Pope Francis.
- Be creative and enthusiastic in inviting and involving your family in the life of the Church.

*The Holy Spirit is the living presence of God in the Church. He keeps the Church going, keeps the Church moving forward. More and more, beyond the limits, onwards. The Holy Spirit with His gifts guides the Church. You cannot understand the Church of Jesus without this Paraclete, whom the Lord sends us for this very reason. And He makes unthinkable choices, but unimaginable!
To use the words of St. John XXIII: it is the Holy Spirit that updates the Church: Really, he really updates it and keeps it going. And we Christians must ask the Lord for the grace of docility to the Holy Spirit. Docility in this Spirit, who speaks to us in our heart, who speaks to us in all of life’s circumstances, who speaks to us in the Church’s life, in Christian communities, who is always speaking to us.”*



Yours sincerely in Christ.
Lesley Quinlivan
(Miss) Lesley Quinlivan (REC)