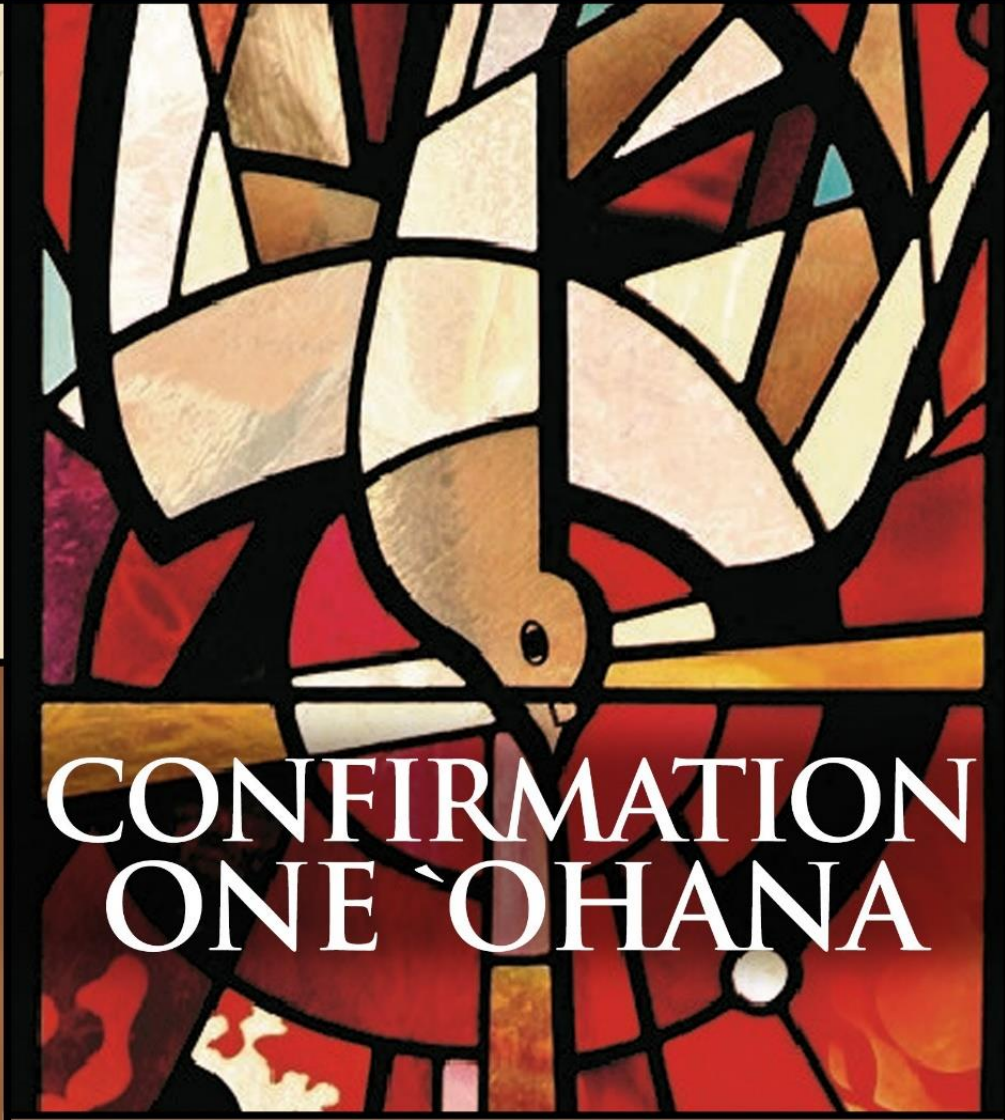




DIOCESE OF HONOLULU  
OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS  
EDUCATION



# CONFIRMATION ONE `OHANA

RESOURCE PACKET



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The Spirituality of the Facilitator:

Considerations as you prepare to present *Confirmation - One 'Ohana*

We know you love Christ and His Church. You have answered His call to the vocation of catechist and the Church is blessed by your presence. As you accompany parents toward understanding the Sacrament of Confirmation in its proper theological order of Christian initiation – Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist – be assured that the grace and gifts you receive in these Sacraments will indeed sustain you!

Remember that:

- God the Holy Spirit inspires and guides our efforts. The Spirit is at work within you and in the (god)parents to whom we minister. It is through the power of the Holy Spirit that we experience true conversion.
- Daily encounters with Christ in Sacred Scripture are essential to growing in faith. Use the New American Bible at every parent meeting and teach parents how to pray using the Bible.
- You have a blessed and unique opportunity to create a warm, welcoming environment that echoes the love of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Please spend quality time in prayer before you facilitate the parent sessions on Confirmation. Empty yourself and allow God's love to fill you. Let go of a desire to use the sessions to preach, scold, or "guilt-trip" parents about past behaviors. Instead, forgive them as Jesus forgives and gently shepherd them home as Jesus does for us when we lose our way. Help give them a sense of belonging. Here are a few prayer recommendations:

- The Parable of the Lost Sheep (Luke 15: 1 – 7); The Parable of the Lost Son (Luke 15: 11 – 32): Those who are spiritually lost are longed for and tended to gently in a spirit of great love.
- Jesus, the Good Shepherd (John 10: 1 – 18): Lead others to know Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Know, love, and lead as Jesus does.
- The Appearance on the Road to Emmaus (Luke 24): Journey with parents, ask about their lives, teach them patiently to know Jesus in Sacred Scripture and especially in Holy Communion.
- Christian Charity (1 Peter 4: 7 – 11): Be a model of hospitality and good stewardship.

### About the Facilitator Guide for Confirmation - One 'Ohana

- The facilitator guide is designed to assist the facilitator in the task of providing (god)parents with systematic, theologically-sound catechesis on Confirmation and its place between Baptism and Eucharist.
- A liturgical catechesis following the Order of Confirmation forms the framework for the guide. The content conforms to the catechetical requirements for the sacrament of Confirmation set forth by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and supports the Diocese of Honolulu's *Norms for the Preparation for and Celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation and First Penance* and *Guidelines for Teaching Religion*.
- The guide enculturates the gospel message through integrating the locally-produced video "Confirmation: One 'Ohana" <http://catholichawaii.org/sacramentvideos>
- While written in script form, the facilitator should take care to not lecture verbatim. While staying true to the catechetical content and guided by the pastor, one must take into account the particular needs of the participants. Remember: this is a joyful encounter with Christ!

### Frequently Asked Question

Question: "How can my child be mature enough/ready to be confirmed?"

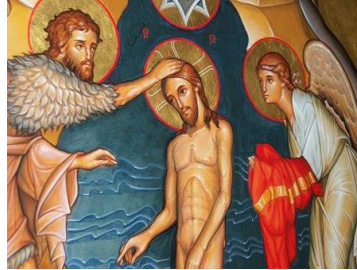
Response: Do you believe your child is ready to receive first Holy Communion? What are some things (s)he has begun to understand about Holy Communion? (i.e., the priest asks the Holy Spirit to change the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus; I am receiving Jesus, not ordinary food; receiving Jesus helps me to be like Him.)

If your child is ready to be nourished by the precious Body and Blood of Christ, (s)he is ready to be confirmed! Confirmation is not a rite of passage to adulthood or about us confirming our faith in God. It is about God confirming His love for us as He does in Baptism. As a sacrament of initiation, Confirmation, received in its proper theological order (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist) opens the door to receive Holy Communion.

For more FAQs and other resources, refer to the Original Order resource page at [www.CatholicHawaii.org](http://www.CatholicHawaii.org)

Jayne Mondoy, M.A.  
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## SOME HELPFUL IMAGES FOR YOUR PRESENTATION



## PRE-REQUISITE

Parents should watch the Original Order video produced by the Diocese of Honolulu. It is available in DVD or online at <http://catholichawaii.org/sacramentvideos>

## RECOMMENDED SESSION MATERIALS

- *Confirmation - One 'Ohana* video, facilitator, parent, and home handouts (download at <http://catholichawaii.org/sacramentvideos> The video is also available in DVD format.)
- Bible (Encourage parents to bring a New American Bible or go to <http://www.usccb.org/bible/books-of-the-bible/index.cfm> for scripture passages.)
- *Catechism of the Catholic Church*
- Recommended symbols/images:
  - Baptism: white candle, white garment, bowl of water, small dish of olive oil
  - Confirmation: Image of the Baptism of Jesus and descent of the Holy Spirit
- *Rite of Baptism* book (optional)
- *Order of Confirmation* book (optional)

## **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GATHERING PRAYER**

*Have participants locate the scripture passage in their Bible or on a mobile device*

<http://www.usccb.org/bible/books-of-the-bible/index.cfm> *Be gentle and patient with those who need help with navigating the Bible – this is a joyful encounter with Christ!*



## **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

Thank you for being here today. We welcome this opportunity to gather as a faith community to assist you in preparing your child for the sacrament of Confirmation.

As we learned in the Original Order video produced by the Diocese of Honolulu, Christian initiation is accomplished by three sacraments together. They are: “Baptism which is the beginning of new life; Confirmation which is its strengthening; and the Eucharist which nourishes the disciple with Christ’s Body and Blood for his transformation in Christ.” (CCC 1275)

Thus, Confirmation is not a “rite of passage to adulthood” where we confirm our faith. It is God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit who always takes the initiative in confirming us in the faith, always making the first move toward us!

## **CONNECTING BAPTISM TO CONFIRMATION**

In the sacrament of Confirmation God confirms in us and completes the grace He gives us in Baptism. We are bound more closely to Him and His Church. We are given a special strength of the Holy Spirit which helps us to be true witnesses of Christ and to spread and defend the faith by word and deed. (reference: CCC 1285.)

Given the connection of Baptism to Confirmation, let us first take some time to reflect upon your child’s Baptism. Take a few moments to look over these questions. In a few minutes I’ll invite you to share your responses with a person sitting nearby. Take a moment now to introduce yourself. (Allow a few minutes for parents to review questions, 15 minutes to share with a partner):

1. Recall the day of your child’s Baptism. What was the name of the priest/deacon who baptized your child? Do you remember the date (or month/year) of the Baptism? At what parish did the Baptism take place?
2. What name did you give your child at Baptism? What is the significance of this name?
3. Who are your child’s godparents? Describe how they have influenced your child’s growth in the Catholic faith.
4. When your child was baptized you made a formal commitment – a promise – to lovingly raise them in the Catholic faith. Recall these words: *Parents, you have asked to have your child baptized. In doing so you are accepting the responsibility of training them in*



*the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring him/her up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and neighbor (RB #39).*

QUESTION: What are some ways that you help your child grow in the Catholic faith?  
Some examples:

- My family has a regular routine of prayer.
  - We celebrate the day of my child's Baptism each year.
  - A Bible, crucifix and other symbols of the Catholic faith are prominently displayed in my home.
  - We make it a priority to regularly attend Mass on Sunday as a family.
  - Our family has developed good relationships with other Catholic parents and their children.
  - Your own response:
- 

Thank you for sharing! I'm really interested in hearing about some of the ways you help your children grow in faith. Would someone like to share something they learned from their partner?

Thank you.

### **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

All of these marvelous ways that you form your child in the Catholic faith are inspiring. They also make a strong statement: I Believe! What do we believe? Refer to your parent handout as we recall and pray through the Profession of Faith that you made for your child during the Rite of Baptism. As we do each year at Easter, your child will be asked to renew their Profession of Faith at Confirmation:

Leader: Do you renounce sin, so as to live in the freedom of the children of God?

All: *I do. Lord, sin is to make a choice that leads me away from you. Help our family to listen carefully to your voice and follow your commandments to honor you and to love others as you love us. Your love frees us from the darkness of sin.*

Leader: Do you reject the lure of evil, so that sin may have no mastery over you?

All: *I do. Lord, evil can sometimes seem so attractive and rewarding! Help our family to be courageous as Christians – setting priorities and a way of living that bring us closer to you.*

Leader: Do you reject Satan, the author and prince of sin?

All: *I do. Lord, by rejecting Satan we reject his empty promises, knowing that real joy can only be found when we follow your commandments. Help us to be faithful to you.*

Leader: Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

All: *I do. Lord, you are our creator and give us life every day. Help us to be grateful for the life you have given us. Help us recognize your love for us in times of celebration and sorrow, and*

*even as we go about our daily lives. As a family we desire to believe in you, to turn to you, and place our lives into your loving hands.*

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead, and is seated at the right hand of the Father?

All: *I do. God our Father, you chose the Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son Jesus. She is a perfect model of faith, obedience, and courage. Your Son Jesus sacrificed His life to save us from sin. He rose from the dead and returned to you in heaven giving us the promise of everlasting life. May the loving choices we make as a family show that we are grateful for Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.*

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

All: *I do. Holy Spirit of God, although Jesus' disciples were filled with fear, you appeared to them with a message of peace, filled them with the fire of your love, and gave them the courage to go out into the whole world to share your message of salvation.*

*We are given this same Spirit in Baptism which is sealed and strengthened in Confirmation and nourished by your precious Body and Blood. We know you love us unconditionally even as we ask for forgiveness when we sin. We never feel alone because you give us our brothers and sisters in the Catholic Church and all the Saints in heaven to be our family in faith. You give us special gifts to help us become more like Jesus. Bless our family, keep us holy and faithful so that we, like Jesus, will be called to heaven and live eternally in your love.*

Leader: Almighty God, continue to bless and strengthen these parents. May they be joyful witnesses of Christ to their children, in their community, and in our world. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thank you for participating in this reflection. Let's take a moment of silence to reflect on the profound statements of the Creed (few minutes of silence.) Our Creed begins with the words "I believe." Yet we know that we need others, a community, to grow in faith. The persons who regularly surround your child play an important role in their formation.

### **THE ROLE OF THE SPONSOR**

Your child's Confirmation sponsor is an important member of your community. Recall some of the ways you stated earlier that would help your child grow in the Catholic faith. Then recall the words and our reflection on the Creed, our profession of faith. The role of a godparent and sponsor are the same. Thus, an appropriate sponsor is a person whom your child can look to as a model of Christian discipleship. The sponsor, like the godparent, is a person of faith whose life is a reflection of what (s)he professes to believe.

Think about who would make an appropriate sponsor for your child... perhaps it's your child's godparent... Take a few moments to pray for this person.

## **CONFIRMATION NAME**

The name you gave your child at Baptism is the preferred name given at Confirmation. To be baptized by a name shows that God knows us individually and loves each and every one of us. He says “yes” to us and wants us as part of His family forever.

To be confirmed in the name of a saint means that your child is promising to be like that saint, loving and serving Jesus in a very special way. As a family, read stories about some saints and ask the saints to pray for you as you make a decision. We all are called to be saints and your child’s name at given at Baptism is an appropriate choice.

## **LAYING ON OF HANDS**

Before we take a break, let’s examine two significant rituals in the Order of Confirmation: the laying on of hands and anointing by the bishop.

During Mass, when do we see the priest make this gesture (make gesture of epiclesis)? What is the meaning of this gesture? The priest asks that the Holy Spirit transform the bread and wine into a new reality – the Body and Blood of Christ. In the same way, during Confirmation the bishop will lay hands upon your child and ask the Holy Spirit to transform him/her into a new reality.

Let’s read several passages from sacred scripture that describe laying on of hands. (Assign each passage to a different person to read).

Exodus 29:10 (The ancient Israelites extend hands as a sign of blessing)

Numbers 27: 15-23 (Moses lays hands upon Joshua)

Mark 8: 22-25 (Jesus lays hands upon the eyes of the blind man)

Acts 6:6 (Laying on of hands as a sign of mission)

Acts 8: 14-17 (Apostles lay hands upon the people)

During Confirmation, as the bishop lays hands upon your child, let’s be grateful to God for this special blessing and grace of the Holy Spirit.

## **ANOINTING WITH CHRISM AND RECEIVING THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

After the laying on of the hands, the bishop will anoint your child with the oil of chrisms and say “(child’s name,) be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Being anointed with sacred chrisms is a sign of consecration or holiness. It gives us a special strength to be more like Christ and to love His Church.

Like an official seal put on an important document, being “sealed” in this case, means that your child is “imprinted” by the Holy Spirit. God confirms the grace your child received in Baptism.

(S)he is given special gifts which help to be a disciple of Christ, to follow His commandments and help others to do the same.

In the Book of Isaiah 11:2-3, the Gifts of the Holy Spirit are described. In the passage the gifts are considered ones that the Messiah would have possessed. Through Jesus, we also receive the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation. (Read Isaiah 11:2 – 3)

*Wisdom* helps us recognize the importance of others and the importance of keeping God central in our lives.

*Understanding* is the ability to comprehend the meaning of God's message.

*Knowledge* is the ability to think about and explore God's revelation, and also to recognize there are mysteries of faith that we cannot fully comprehend.

*Counsel* is the ability to see the best way to follow God's plan and make the right choices.

*Fortitude* is the ability to have courage and remain strong, even when our faith is challenged.

*Piety* (reverence) helps us to be humble before God and be devoted to Him.

*Fear of the Lord* (awe) is the ability to be amazed by God, to realize He loves us unconditionally and to never want to break our bonds with Him.

(note: original text on Gifts of the Holy Spirit at [www.LoyolaPress.com](http://www.LoyolaPress.com))

Throughout your child's life these gifts are ones that will "keep on giving." They are gifts meant to be nurtured by God through you, your child's sponsor and, of course, the Church. As these gifts mature, our lives will be fruitful indeed! (Read Galatians 5: 22-26: The Fruit of the Spirit.)

Let's take a break. When we reconvene we'll watch a short 9-minute video on Confirmation that was produced by the Diocese of Honolulu.

--- BREAK---



### **VIDEO: INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**

Welcome back.

A quick review of what we discussed earlier: When your child was baptized, you made some important and lasting promises on their behalf and Christ welcomed them into His family, forming an eternal relationship – a loving Christian covenant. And now that your child has reached the age of reason/discretion, (s)he is showing increased independence and the ability to make some decisions. (S)he is beginning to exercise his/her own conscience, exhibiting a keen awareness of what is right and wrong; what is fair and what is not. Peers, teachers, and even the media are a growing influence in the life of your child.

The love you have for your child gives you the courage and strength to help him/her navigate through these new beginnings. And Christ, in His great love for us, reaches out to your child,

promising help in a special way through the Gift of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation, a Gift your child needs now!

In the Sacrament of Confirmation, Christ confirms the covenant made in your child's Baptism. Christ confirms in your child the promise to be faithful to His message in thoughts, words, and actions. The seal of the Holy Spirit is given, confirming that the child belongs to Christ. Christ anoints us and plants within us special gifts so that we have the strength and ability to do His will. And ultimately, Christ invites us to His banquet table, Holy Communion, in which His Body and Blood continually nourishes us.

To summarize what we have discussed, let's watch a nine-minute video on the Sacrament of Confirmation produced by the Office of Religious Education. This video is available at <http://catholichawaii.org/sacramentvideos>

Some key points from the video are listed in your handout:

- 1) Confirmation is not about us confirming our faith in God. It is about God confirming His love for us.
- 2) As a sacrament of initiation, Confirmation, received in its proper theological order (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist) opens the door to receive Holy Communion.
- 3) The Gift of the Holy Spirit received in Confirmation prepares and strengthens us for Christian discipleship. We are to give witness to Jesus.



### **VIDEO: ONE 'OHANA: THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION**

➔ **(Play video in its entirety. Do not stop between segments.)**

## **SEGMENT I: THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION**

(Bishop Larry Silva)

In the sacrament of Confirmation Jesus breathes the gifts of His Holy Spirit into each of us saying, "Peace be with you."

"Confirmation is a time for new beginnings... It seals and strengthens the promises offered in Baptism." It opens the door to receive the source and summit of that initiation, the physical encounter with Risen Christ Himself, known as the Eucharist. In receiving the Body and Blood of Christ we are sustained for the journey to live our faith in service and love to others.

## SEGMENT II

“Confirmation is when I become a soldier of Christ (Nathan Barinque, age 7 who cites 2 Timothy 2: 1 - 7)

“Children at the age of reason are ready to receive Confirmation. They’re open to a relationship with the Lord and it may be the best time for them to receive sacraments so that they can continue to grow in their faith and give witness to Jesus.” (Fr. William Kunisch)

It’s just part of learning, you’re always a student – there’s so much to learn about the faith. (Ashley Almuena, young adult confirmed at age 7)

Confirmation is the sacrament that seals us with the gift of the Holy Spirit and makes us stronger followers of Jesus. (Nhan Dao, age 7)

“Children can do marvelous things. They can and should evangelize in their own ways. And how can they do that unless they have first received the Gift of the Holy Spirit? It is so important that they have this Gift of the Holy Spirit from the earliest age so that they can be prepared to not just be consumers of the faith but to be sharers of the faith. (Bishop Larry Silva)

Confirmation is that extra grace from God for us on our journey. (Msgr. Terrance “Terry” Watanabe)

“The sacraments are food for our souls. In Baptism we receive God’s sanctifying grace. It’s like putting a seed in the soil and over time as it is watered and nurtured and taken care of it properly, it grows. In Confirmation you have the fulfillment of what was initially given to you, which is that seed.” (Dallas Carter)

At a tender age they know that the land is so precious. It’s our life. When they grow they will also, like plants, mature in faith. (Fr. Santiago “Bong” Agoo)

It is helping them to understand how important it is to be concerned about other things and then hopefully translate that into being concerned about other people. Faith... is supposed to change our lives. (Msgr. Terry)

Confirmation is a part of life and a continuation of their ongoing formation in the faith. (Rosa Lefu’a)

(Nurturing our faith is like nurturing a garden) It is just like when you’re working with the people. (The way) you nurture (plants) in the farm it’s the same thing – (it’s the way) you nurture the people in the parish, in the community, and in the Church. (Dcn. Jerome Vito Lefu’a)

The laborers are few but the harvest is great. We really need to labor in the vineyard of the Lord. (Fr. Bong)

### **SEGMENT III**

The good life is serving others, learning more about God and what he is trying to ask of us. (Timothy Almuena, young adult confirmed at age 7)

Wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, fear of the Lord

It is the power of the Holy Spirit that transforms the bread and wine into the Body/Blood of Christ. In the same way, it is the power of the Spirit in the sacrament of Confirmation who transforms us into the body of Christ so that we can reach out to others. We take these attributes that are God's own attributes and make them present in the world. (Bishop Larry)

It's not just about them receiving the Body of Christ but that we are a bigger 'ohana, receiving the Body of Christ. (Kalae Martin)

### **AFTER THE VIDEO**

What one idea or statement from the video caught your attention? Explain.

It may take time to absorb the true meaning of the Sacrament of Confirmation. It's just one example of our need to keep learning about our faith throughout our lives! Now we ask that you take what you have learned here and share it with your child. If you need help to do this, you may refer to your Home handout where you will find an example of how to have parent-child discussions. We encourage you to pray with your child each day and connect the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist to the daily life of your family.

And, joining with Bishop Larry Silva, we your parish community pray that the seeds planted in your child's Baptism will grow even deeper roots and produce even more abundance along their faith journey.

### **PRAYER**

End with an appropriate closing prayer or the following:

O God, you gave the Holy Spirit to your Apostles. Through their successors, our bishops, His same Spirit is handed on to us. Filled with your Spirit may we be faithful to you, teach our children your ways, and as a family spread the Gospel throughout our world. We make this prayer through your Son Jesus. Amen.

### **RESOURCES**

The videos on Original Order and the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist and Reconciliation are available in DVD format or online at <http://catholichawaii.org/sacramentvideos>

Family life resources are available at [www.catholichawaii.org](http://www.catholichawaii.org)