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This content is not designed to be self-guided in any way. It is to be done by the Candidate (that's you) with the guidance of both a trusted adult and the Holy Spirit.

If parents are not able to help, please consider your Confirmation Sponsor, Godparent, or Grandparent.

SOLDIERS OF CHRIST

How many times have you been told that you are a Soldier of Christ? Probably not even once actually. This is not a term that we much hear any more in our daily lives but it does not mean that we are not called to be just that, a Soldier of Christ. In a world where the politically correct thing to do is never ruffle feathers, as Confirmed Catholics, we are equipped for battle ready to shake things up in the world.

So what does it mean to be a soldier of Christ? When you think of a soldier, what is the first thing that pops into your head? A modern soldier all decked out in camo armed for war? or a warrior from ancient times with a shield and a sword? Both sound pretty cool, unless your the one going into battle, then it sounds justifiably scary. You have probably never seen anyone dressed like that in church on Sunday, but I assure you that they are there. Often our weapons look different. A rosary, a scapular, holy water. Instead of on our belly aiming a gun, we are on our knees with our eyes down in humility, or raised glorifying God. Our war is not with man, our war is with Satan, who is capable of influencing man in an attempt to thwart the plans of God.



As a true Soldier of Christ, we need to be trained and prepared like any soldier, that is why you are going through Confirmation prep now. So that you can be equipped for battle, to be taught how to recognize a problem and respond with integrity and strength. Sometimes it is the strength to resist the evil tempting you to go against God's love for you, other times it is the strength to live out your faith without fear.

Sometimes it is knowing when to proclaim the Good News to others. Sometimes it is in our service to the community and the world. Sometimes it is being able to recognize when something is wrong and stand up for what is right.



If we think of the Holy Spirit only as an impersonal power or influence, then our thought will constantly be, how can I get hold of and use the Holy Spirit; but if we think of Him in the biblical way as a divine Person, infinitely wise, infinitely holy, infinitely tender, then our thought will constantly be, 'How can the Holy Spirit get hold of and use me?'

R. A. Torrey



CHOSEN: Lesson14,Seg.1: The Power of the Holy Spirit Part1
from God Child
<https://youtu.be/LUMofcxXuGQ>

CHOSEN:Lesson14,Seg.1: The Power of the Holy Spirit Part2
from God Child
<https://youtu.be/e3GshQRebj4>



HOW CAN I BE TRAINED AND PREPARED?



Well, first off, you have been! You started your training when your parents first taught you how to put your hands together and taught you how to see the value in others.



You are doing it now. You have spent this year learning that God loves you and has big plans for you through Family Catechesis and with the Confirmation prep classes. You are learning who the Holy Spirit is in the Trinity as well as in your life.



Don't stop learning! This is important: Confirmation is maturity in the Church, and the mature thing to do is to realize that you don't know everything, or even enough. You don't have to make it a job, but you do need to seek and seek in the right places.



Attend Mass, Every. Sunday. Every. Sunday. And maybe, when you are able, hit a daily Mass. The Eucharist is the greatest gift we have, it is Christ in us, it is coming before Him physically, praising and petitioning Him as a community, and food for the journey.



Start on your knees, and then get on your feet. What I mean is that all things should include prayer and calling on the Lord, but He will not do everything for you, you have to get up and put in your own work too.



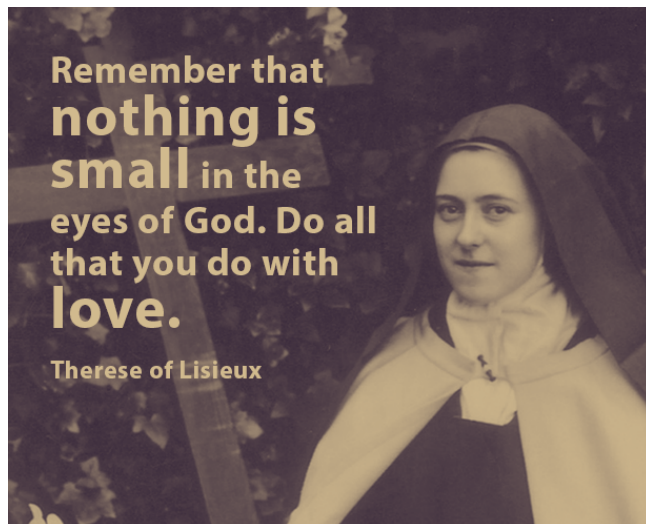
Turn to Jesus by joining his Body, the Church. Get active in your community and your world in both small and large ways. Imagine what the world would be like if everyone did that. Start with you. And maybe bring a friend.



Therese Martin was born in France in 1873, one of 5 (surviving) children into a loving family. Tragedy struck early and her mother died of breast cancer when Therese was only 4 1/2 years old. Her sister Pauline became her second mother, but then went off to join the Carmelite nuns only 5 years later. Therese was an overly emotional child but wanted to become a Carmelite Sister, but to do that, she would have to get a handle on her emotions. She prayed often that she would be able to accomplish this task. Her prayers and determination payed off in both respects and she was permitted entry into the Carmelite convent with her sisters.

Therese wanted to be a saint so badly, but as a cloistered nun, she was not permitted out into the world to go and do the big things that make saints. So she prayed and looked for another way to be a saint. She decided to become a saint through sacrifice. Little sacrifices, like little flowers, everywhere she could find them were offered up for love. From smiling at another sister that she did not like, taking the worst jobs around the convent, to taking the blame when something went wrong. Even when she was sick, sometimes no one would believe her due to her accepting her pain joyfully as a sacrifice.

St. Therese of Lisieux shows us that to be a saint or a Soldier for Christ doesn't always mean that we need to be on the march or doing grand things. Sometimes the biggest battles can be won in little simple ways, like with a smile or a prayer for another, or small helping hand for another in need. Done often and with joy, these little things can change the world.



Facts & Stats

Feastday: October 1

Patron: missions

Birth: 1873

Death: 1897

Beatified: April 29, 1923

Canonized: May 17, 1925

Declared a Doctor of the Church:

October 19, 1997



MEET

St. Martin de Porres

Born in Lima, Peru, in 1579, Saint Martin de Porres was biracial, born an illegitimate son to a Spanish conquistador and a freed slave from Panama who was of African or possibly Native American descent. Throughout his childhood, Saint Martin experienced ridicule and discrimination due to his heritage and skin color. By Peruvian law, those of mixed race were not allowed to become full members of religious orders.

Even though he was denied admission into the Dominican Convent of the Rosary as a teenager, Saint Martin persevered and became a volunteer at the convent, serving as a jack of all trades: part barber, part nurse, part laundry boy.

At the age of 24, Saint Martin finally was granted his holy vows. He spent his time at the convent founding an orphanage and a children's hospital. Saint Martin also traveled the streets of the city, caring for victims of the bubonic plague, regardless of their race or status. His character was fueled by compassion for all. His personal triumph over racial injustice, as well as his service to those less fortunate, is an example of faithful perseverance, even when treated unfairly.



St Martin, you have been raised up by God to how us the way to our true home. You have given us the good example and the encouragement that we need. We now realize from your life that all we have to do to win the reward of glory is to love and serve the best of Masters. May we ever be humble that we, too, may be exalted unto everlasting life. Amen.

Facts & Stats

Feastday: November 3

Patron: of mixed race, barbers, healthcare workers and innkeepers

Birth: December 9, 1579

Death: November 3, 1639

Beatified: October 29, 1837

Canonized: May 6, 1962

Right from the Rite



"God our Father,
complete the work you have begun
and keep the gifts of your Holy
Spirit
active in the hearts of your people.
Make them ready to live his Gospel
and eager to do his will.
May they never be ashamed
to proclaim to all the world Christ
cucified
living and reinging for ever and
ever."
(Order of Confirmation, number 33)

If you like the info about these 2 saints, go online and find out more! They had a lot more amazing information to share with you that didn't fit on this sheet.

Think about the works of Mercy you were asked to do for Confirmation. How can you expand on those to see yourself as a Soldier for Christ?



Challenge!

This week, have a conversation with your Sponsor about what it means to be the "hands and feet of Christ" and how that experience changes them.

