**Confirmation Retreat Opening Prayer**

All-powerful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

by water and the Holy Spirit you freed your sons and daughters

from sin and gave us new life.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us to be our helper and guide.

Lord, give us *wisdom* to see our talents and affirm your gifts in others.

Lord, give us *understanding* so that we may know our part in the ministry of the Church.

Lord, give us *counsel* to make decisions that will lead us closer to you.

Lord, give us *fortitude* that we may spread the good news with joy, enthusiasm and love and travel the journey simply, freely and with a vision rooted in you.

Lord, give us *knowledge* to believe that whatever we are at this moment is planned by you and that the seeds of your life will grow in us.

Lord, give us *piety* that, like Mary, we can say yes to the unknown and come to cherish all that is holy and sacred in life.

Lord, give us *fear of the Lord* to lay our needs before you and leave the rest to you.

Lord, fill us to the brim so that those who come into our lives

will experience your mercy, compassion and love.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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