The 1559 Book of Common Prayer,

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The order of Confirmation, or laying on of hands upon children baptized, and able to render an account of their Faith, according to the Catechism following.

O the end that confirmation may be ministered to the more edifying of such, as shall receive it (according unto S. Paul’s doctrine, who teacheth that all things should be done in the Church, to the edification of the same) it is thought good that none hereafter shall bee confirmed but such as can say in their mother tongue the Articles of the Faith, the Lords prayer, and the ten Commandements, and can also answer to such questions of this short Catechism, as the Bishop (or such as he shall appoint) shall by his discretion appose them in. And this order is most convenient to be observed for divers considerations.

First, because that when children come to the yeares of discretion, and have learned what their Godfathers and Godmothers promised for them in Baptism, they may then themselves with their owne mouth, and with their own consent, openly before the Church, ratifie and confirm the same: and also promise that by the grace of God, they will evermore endeavour themselves faithfully to observe and keepe such things, as they by their owne mouth and confession have assented unto.

Secondly, forasmuch as Confirmation is ministered to them that be Baptized, that by imposition of hands and prayer, they may receive strength and defence against all temptations to sinne, and the assaults of the world and the diuell: it is most mete to be ministered when children come to that age, that partly by the frailty of their owne flesh, partly by the assaults of the world and the diuell, they begin to bee in danger to fall into sundry kindes of sinne.

Thirdly, for that it is agreeable with the usage of the Church in times past, whereby it was ordained that Confirmation should be ministered to them that were of perfect age, that they being instructed in Chri[...]

should openly profess their owne faith, and promise to be obedient vnto the will of God.

And that no man shall thinke that any detriment shall come to children by deferring of their Confirmation, hee shall know for trueth, that it is certaine by Gods word, that children being baptized, haue all things necessary for their saluation, and be undoubtedly faued.

A Catechisme, that is to say, an Instruction to bee learned of euery Childe, before hee bee brought to bee Con- firmed by the Bishops.

Queftion.

Hat is your name?

Anfwere.

N. or M.

Queftion.

Who gaue you this name?

Anfwere.

My Godfathers and Godmothers in my Baptisme, wherein I was made a member of Christ, the childe of God, and an inheritour of the Kingdome of heauen.

Queftion.

What did your godfathers and godmothers then for you?

Anfwere.

They did promise, and vow three things in my name. First, that I should fortake the devill, and all his workes, the pompes and vanities of the wicked world, and all the linsfull lusts of the flesh. Secondly, that I should beleue all the Articles of the Christian Faith. And thirdly, that I should keepe Gods holy will and Commandements, and walke in the same all the dayes of my life.

Queftion.

Doest thou not thinke that thou art bound to beleue and to doe as they haue promised for thee?

Anfwere.

Yes verely, and by Gods helpe so I will. And I heartily thanke our heauenly Father, that hee hath called mee to this
state of salvation, through Jesus Christ our Saviour. And I pray God to give me his grace, that I may continue in the same unto my lives end.

Question.

Rehearse the Articles of thy belief.

Answer.

Beleeue in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and of earth. And in Jesus Christ his only Sonne our Lord, which was conceived by the holy Ghost, borne of the Virgine Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried, he descended into hell, the third day he rose againe from the dead, hee ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty: From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I beleue in the holy Ghost, the holy Catholique Church, the Communion of Saints, the forgiuenesse of sinne, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Question.

What doest thou chiefly learne in these Articles of thy belief?

Answer.

First, I leerne to beleue in God the Father, who hath made me and all the world.

Secondly, in God the Sonne, who hath redeemed me and all mankinde.

Thirdly, in God the holy Ghost, who sanctifieth me and all the elect people of God.

Question.

You said, that your Godfathers and Godmothers did promise for you, that you should keepe Gods Commandements. Tell me how many there be?

Answer.

Tenne.

Which be they?
Answere.

HE same which GOD spake in the twentieth Chapter of Exodus, layning: I am the Lord thy God which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, oute of the houle of bondage.

i. Thou shalt haue none other Gods but me.

ii. Thou shalt not make to thy selfe any grauen image nor the likenes of any thing that is in heauen a-boue, or in the earth beneath, nor in the water under the earth. Thou shalt not bow downe to them nor worship them. For I the Lord thy God am a iealous God, and visit the sinnes of the fathers vpon the children, unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me, and shew mercy vnto thousands of them that loue me, and keepe my commandements.

iii. Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vaine: for the Lord will not hold him guiltlesse that taketh his Name in vaine.

iii. Remember that thou keepe holy the Sabbath day. Six dayes shalt thou labour and do all that thou hast to do: but the seuenth day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God. In it thou shalt doe no manner of worke, thou, and thy sonne, and thy daughter, thy man servante, and thy maid servante, thy cattell, and the stranger that is within thy gate: for in six dayes the Lord made heauen and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seuenth day, wherfore the Lord blessed the seuenth day, and hallowed it.

v. Honour thy father and thy mother, that thy dayes may be long in the land which the Lord thy God giueth the.

vi. Thou shalt do no murder.

vii. Thou shalt not commit adultery.

vii. Thou shalt not steale.

ix. Thou shalt not beare false witnesse against thy neighbour.

x. Thou shalt not couet thy neighbours houle, thou shalt not couet thy neighbours wife, nor his servante, nor his maid, nor his Oxe nor his Asse, nor any thing that is his.
Question.

What doest thou chiefly learne by these Commandements?

Answere.

I learne two thing: My dutie towards God, and my dutie towards my neighbour.

Question.

What is my dutie towards God?

Answere.

My dutie towards God, is to beleue in him, to feare him, and to loue him with all my heart, with all my minde, with all my soule, and with all my strength. To worship him, to give him thankes, to put my whole truist in him, to call vpon him, to honour his holy Name and his Word, and to serue him truely all the dayes of my life.

Question.

What is thy dutie towards thy neighbour?

Answere.

My dutie towards my nepghbour is, to loue him as my selfe, and to doe to all men as I would they shoulde doe vnto mee. To loue, honour, and succour my father and mother. To honour and obey the King and his ministers. To submit my selfe to all my Gouernours, teachers, spirituall Pastours and Masters. To order my selfe lowly and reuerently to all my betters. To hurt no body by word or deed. To bee true and iust in all my dealing. To heare no malice nor hatred in my heart. To keepe my hands from picking and stealing, and my tongue from euill speaking, lying and slandering. To keepe my body in temperance, sobrenesse, and chastitie. Not to couet nor desire other men's goods, but to learne and labour truly to get mine owne liuing, and to doe my duety in that state of life, unto the which it shall please God to call me.

Question.

My good childe know thi, that thou art not able to doe these things of thy selfe, nor to walke in the commandements of God, and to serue him, without his speciall grace, which thou muft learne at all times to call for by diligent prayer. Let me heare therefore if thou canst lay the Lords prayer.
Answere.

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation: but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Queſtion.

What desirest thou of God in this prayer?

Answere.

I desire my Lord God our heavenly Father, who is the giver of all goodnesse, to send his grace unto mee, and to all people, that wee may worship him, serve him, and obey him as we ought to doe. And I pray unto God, that he will send vs all things that be needfull both for our soules and bodies, and that hee will be mercifull unto vs, and forgive vs our sinnes, and that it will please him to safe and defend vs in all dangers ghostly and bodily, and that he will keepe vs from all sinne and wickednesse, and from our ghostly enemie, and from everlasting death. And thil I trust he wil doe of his mercy and goodnesse, through our Lord Jesus Christ. And therefore I say. Amen. So be it.

Queſtion.

Ow many Sacraments hath Christ ordained in his Church?

Answere.

Two onely as generally necessary to salvation; that is to say, Baptisme, and the Supper of the Lord.

Queſtion.

What meanest thou by this word Sacrament?

Answere.

I meane an outward and visible Signe of an Inward and Spirituall grace giuen unto vs; ordained by Christ himselfe, as a means whereby we receive the same, and a pledge to assure vs thereof.

Queſtion.

How many parts be there in a Sacrament?
Two; the Outward visible Signe, and the Inward Spirituall Grace.

What is the outward visible signe or forme in Baptisme?

Water: wherein the person baptized is dipped or sprinkled with it, In the Name of the Father, and of Sonne, and of the holy Ghost.

What is the inward and spirituall grace?

A death unto sinne, and a new birth unto righteousness: for being by nature borne in sinne, and the children of wrath, we are hereby made the children of grace.

What is required of persons to be baptized?

Repentance, whereby they forlake sinne; and faith, whereby they stedfastly beleue the promises of God, made to them in that Sacrament.

Why then are Infants baptized, when by reason of their tender age they cannot performe them?

Yes: they doe performe them by their Sureties; who promise and vow them both, in their names: which when they come to age, themselves are bound to performe.

Why was the Sacrament of the Lords Supper ordained?

For the continuall remembrance of the Sacrifice of the death of Christ, and the benefits which we receive thereby.

What is the outward part or signe of the Lords Supper?

Bread and wine, which the Lord hath commanded to bee received.

What is the inward part or thing signified?
Answere.

The Body and Blood of Christ, which are verely and indeed taken and receiued of the faithfull in the Lords Supper.

Question.

What are the benefitt whereof we are partaker thereby?

Answere.

The strengthening and refreshing of our soules by the Body and Blood of Christ, as our bodies are by the Bread and wine.

Question.

What is required of those which come to the Lords Supper?

Answere.

To examine themselues, whether they repent them truely of their former sinnes, stedfastly purposing to leade a new life; have a lively faith in Gods mercy through Christ, with a thankfull remembrance of his death; and be in charitie with all men.

¶ So soone as the children can say in their mother tongue the Articles of the Faith, the Lords prayer, the ten Commandements, and also can answere to such questions of this short Catechesme, as the Bishop (or such as he shall appoint) shall by his discretion appose them in : then shall they be brought to the Bishop by one that shall be their Godfather, or Godmother, that every childe may haue a witnesse of his Confirmation. And the Bishop shall confirme them on this wise.
Confirmation, or laying on of hands.

Minister.
Ur helpe is in the Name of the Lord.
Answere.
Which hath made heauen and earth.
Minister.
Blessed is the Name of the Lord.
Answere.
Henceforth world without end.
Minister.

Lord heare our prayers.
Answere.
And let our cry come vnto thee.
¶ Let vs pray.

Lmighty and euerliuing God, who hast vouchsaufed to regenerate these thy servants by water and the holy Ghost, and hast giuen unto them forgiuenelie of all their limes: strengthen them wee beleech thee, O Lord, with the holy Gholt the Comforter, and dayly increase in them thy manifold gifts of grace, the Spirit of wisedome and understanding: the Spirit of Counsell and ghosly strength, the Spirit of knowledge and true godlinelie, and fulfill them (O Lord) with the Spirit of thy holy feare. Amen.

¶ Then the Bishops shall lay his hand vpon every childe feuerally, saying,

Defend, O Lord, this childe with thy heauenly grace that he may continue thine for euer, and dayly increase in thy holy Spirit more and more, untill hee come vnto thy everlastinge Kingdome. Amen.

¶ Then shall the Bishops say,
¶ Let vs pray.

Lmighty euerliuing God, whiche makest vs both to will, and to doe those things that bee good and acceptable vnto thy Maiestie. Wee make our humble supplications vnto thee for these children, vpon whom (after the example of the holy Apolstles) we
haue laied our hands, to certifie them (by this ligne) of thy
favour and graciously goodness toward them: Let thy Father-
ly hand, wee beleche thee, ever be over them: Let thy holy
Spirit ever bee with them, and so leade them in the knowledge
and obedience of thy word, that in the end they may obtaine
the everlasting life: through our Lord Jesus Christ, who with
thee and the holy Ghost liueth and reigneth one God, world
without end. Amen.

¶ Then the Bishop shall bleffe the children,
saying thus,

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Sonne, and
the holy Ghost, bee upon you, and remaine with you for ever.
Amen.

¶ The Curate of euery Parish, or some other at his appointment, shall
diligently vpon Sundayes and Holy dayes, halfe an houre before Euenfong
openly in the Church, instruct and examine so many Children of his
Parish sent vnto him, as the time will ferue and as he shall thinke
conuenient, in some part of this Catechisme.

¶ And all Fathers, Mothers, Masters, and Dames, shall cause their children,
seruants & prentifés (which haue not learned their Catechisme) to come
to the Church at the time appointed, and obediently to heare, and bee
ordered by the Curate, vntill such time as they haue learned all that is
here appointed for them to learne. And whensoever the Bishop shall giue
knowledge for children to be brought before him to any conuenient place,
for their confirmation: then shall the Curate of euery Parish, either bring
or send in writing the names of all those children of his Parish, which can
say the Articles of their Faith, the Lords prayer, and the ten Commande-
ments, and also how many of them can answere to the other questions
contained in this Catechisme.

¶ And there shall none be admitted to the holy Communion; vntil such time
as he can say the Catechisme, and be confirmed.