

How to Get Buy-In for *Chosen: Your Journey to Confirmation*



You know how transformative *Chosen* can be for young people preparing for Confirmation. But sometimes, getting approval from decision-makers—especially your pastor or finance council—requires more than enthusiasm.

This step-by-step guide gives you the tools to make a clear, compelling case for *Chosen* and secure the investment in your students' faith formation.

Consider this document your tool kit for success in persuading stakeholders like your pastor, deacon, catechists, and finance council to make a change or affirm the decision to continue to use *Chosen*.

STEP 1 **Schedule a Conversation**

The first step is to meet with your financial decision-maker (pastor or finance council) or your catechists to discuss this proposal.

In some cases, you'll have done this already during regular check-ins with these individuals. If that's the case, skip to step 2.

If it is difficult to get face time with the people who need to sign off on this decision, it could be helpful to use the templates below.

Email Template for Requesting a Meeting with Your Pastor

Subject: Strengthening Our Confirmation Program

Dear [Pastor],

As you know, keeping teens engaged in their faith is a challenge, and many see Confirmation as the end rather than the beginning of their journey with Christ.

I'd love to meet with you to discuss how we can strengthen our Confirmation preparation at [Parish Name].

I've reviewed *Chosen* (the Confirmation program from Ascension), and I have found that it offers a dynamic and transformational experience that helps students not only understand but also embrace their faith. I'd love to share my thoughts about how this program will benefit our parish and support long-term evangelization.

Would we be able to chat for 15 minutes about this? I could meet [name the time here, e.g., "soon," "at our next check-in," "on XX date"].

In Christ,

[Your Name]

Email Template for Requesting a Meeting with Stakeholders Other Than Your Pastor

(This could include your business manager, your parish accountant,
or the chair of the finance council.)

Subject: Strengthening Our Confirmation Program

Dear [Business Manager/Accountant/Finance Council Chair],

As we plan for the future of our parish, I'd love to have an opportunity to talk about some changes I'd like to make to our Confirmation preparation and how they align with our mission and budget priorities.

Chosen (Ascension's Confirmation program) provides an engaging and transformational experience for our students, equipping them to remain active in their faith beyond Confirmation. I'd like to share how this program supports long-term parish growth, helps families stay engaged, and offers a strong return on investment for our faith formation efforts.

Is it possible to put this on the agenda for the next finance council meeting?

In Christ,

[Your Name]

If they don't respond initially, make sure you follow up with them at least twice, first a week later and then a week after that.

STEP 2

Present *Chosen*

Wonderful! You've scheduled a meeting with your parish priest, gotten a slot on the finance council agenda, or found time to chat with your catechists about *Chosen*. Here are helpful resources to have ready for that conversation:

- The *Chosen* Student Workbook, Director's Manual, and Leader's Guide (in case they want to flip through the materials)
- This [***Chosen Overview Sheet***](#), printed in color, one for each person. This sheet includes a testimonial from a *Chosen* catechist and summarizes information about the presenters, the lesson content, and the cost of the program.

Here are some tips for your conversation:

- Begin by bringing up some of the problems you face with your current Confirmation program (or, if you want to encourage the continued use of *Chosen* at your parish, what spiritual growth you see in your students).
- Give each person an overview sheet, and walk through the benefits of the program: how it is structured, its appeal to children, its faithfulness to Church teaching, and the many resources it provides for catechists and parents. Describe the ways you believe the program will transform your students.
- If it's not too clunky, here are a couple of videos you could pull up:
 - » **This video** featuring Fr. Mike Schmitz and Jackie Francois-Angel is from Lesson 10 of the program.
 - » **This video** shares the powerful testimonial of a parish in Shreveport, Louisiana, that uses *Chosen*.
 - » For catechists, you could walk through a lesson together or show them **this video**, which explains all the components of *Chosen*.
- On the back of the overview sheet, you will see a chart that shows what the approximate investment in *Chosen* would be. It might be helpful to calculate this amount in advance. If you want a specific quote, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at support@ascensionpress.com or 1-800-376-0520.

Investment in Materials

Starter Pack	
Director's Manual	Parent's Guide
Leader's Guide	Sponsor's Guide
Student Workbook	DVD Set
	\$249⁹⁵
Student Materials	\$19⁹⁵-\$29⁹⁵ per student
Leader Materials	\$35⁹⁵-\$37⁹⁵ per leader

If you expect objections over cost, discuss how using the program would save time and energy for the catechists. Consider these cost-saving measures as well:

- You can reuse the DVD sets and Leader's Guides year after year, reducing long-term costs.
- If your parish has reliable internet and a way to stream videos in the classroom, consider purchasing the digital version of the videos instead of physical DVDs. This option can be more cost-effective, especially if multiple catechists need access.

- Some parishes split the cost among different ministries (e.g., youth ministry, religious education, and Confirmation prep) since *Chosen* benefits multiple areas of faith formation. Ask if there is room in the general parish budget or if another ministry can contribute to the cost.
- Many parishes include a registration fee for Confirmation prep to help cover material costs. If a full fee isn't feasible, consider a small contribution from families to offset expenses.
- Look into diocesan grants or parish-based scholarship funds that support faith formation programs. Some parishes seek sponsorships from parishioners who want to support youth faith formation.



Bringing *Chosen* to your parish isn't just about choosing a curriculum—it's about forming lifelong disciples of Christ.

Your passion and commitment to these young people can make all the difference in helping them encounter Jesus in a real and lasting way.

Every conversation, every meeting, and every effort to advocate for this program is an investment in the future of your parish and the faith of the next generation. Trust the Holy Spirit as you take these steps, and know that you are not alone in this mission.

More questions? Please contact us. We'd love to hear from you!

support@ascensionpress.com

1-800-376-0520

