

## Teaching All Young People

During adolescence, many young people are capable of comprehending complex ideas and concepts. As catechists, we show our respect for God's creation by accepting all young people as they are and by mentoring them as they grow in their personal relationships with God. In addition to recognizing each individual's unique qualities, we are mindful that young people are also experiencing many physical, social, intellectual, and emotional changes. We acknowledge that developmental age may not always coincide with chronological age. We stay alert for opportunities to assist young people with special needs. *Confirmed in the Spirit* effectively links faith formation to the lives and real-world experiences of young people by using lessons and activities designed to appeal to a variety of learning styles and developmental levels.

### Getting to Know a Tenth-Grade Young Person (Ages 15–16)

Young people in tenth grade are approaching the end of adolescence and moving toward adulthood. Navigating the physical, social, intellectual, and emotional changes they are experiencing can be challenging for them and for the adults who care for them. Establishing trust and open communication with young people is extremely important. Receiving moral guidance and encouragement to follow their faith tradition can provide structure and stability in the midst of many changes. Additionally, because of our fast-paced technological age, young people face new pressures and situations.

Many have adjusted to high school but now have fears about college, careers, and adult life. They want to cling to adolescence but also want to be treated as adults. They are planning for their futures. Tenth graders are experiencing newfound independence; most have their driver's licenses and are dating. As they strive to become independent and self-reliant, young people still need generous doses of loving guidance from responsible adults.

# CONFIRMED IN THE SPIRIT

## PSYCHOLOGICAL AND INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT

### Young people in tenth grade often

- have improved organizational skills.
- are good at multitasking; can handle school, a job, sports, and so on.
- are striving for independence.
- better understand different points of view, perspectives, and ideas.
- are more relaxed and settled than ninth graders.
- search for independence but still require support, guidance, and encouragement.

## MORAL DEVELOPMENT

### Young people in tenth grade often

- better understand human relationships.
- are more empathetic and understanding of others.
- are idealistic.
- have a better sense of self but are still unsure at times.
- recognize moral discrepancies in adults and parents.
- have conflicts of conscience as a result of increasing independence.
- involve themselves with social media and communication technology, such as talking on the phone, texting, and social networking.
- remain vulnerable to influences of social media and need to understand the ethical and moral implications of these forms of communication.

## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

### Young people in tenth grade often

- are less likely to succumb to peer pressure.
- look for closer friendships; may have close romantic relationships.
- have changing relationships with parents and other adults.
- may seek advice from friends instead of parents.
- feel pressure about the future, such as which college to attend or which career to pursue.
- do more activities independently.

## SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

### Young people in tenth grade often

- look to older teens or adults for role models of faith.
- are willing to listen and participate in group spiritual exercises.
- become passionate about social-justice issues.
- enjoy performing service activities in pairs or groups.
- desire to learn about different forms of spirituality and religions.
- have a deeper appreciation of traditions and rituals within their family and the Church.
- encourage others to join them in a faith community activity.