

**HOMILY OUTLINE FOR CONFIRMATION
AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION
2021-2022**

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I. Green Day: "Boulevard of Broken Dreams"

I walk this empty street on the boulevard of broken dreams
Where the city sleeps and I'm the only one and I walk alone.
My shadow's the only one that walks beside me,
My shallow heart's the only thing that's beating,
Sometimes I wish someone out there would find me,
'Til then, I walk alone.

A. This song expresses a FEAR of walking alone through life.

B. But also expresses a HOPE that someday someone will walk along with us on this journey.

II. This message about not walking alone was well illustrated in the movie, "March of the Penguins" about the Emperor Penguins of Antarctica.

A. Emperor penguins walk 70 miles from the ocean inland to their breeding grounds.

B. Walk back and forth these 70 miles to get food while nursing their egg.

C. Those penguins who fall behind eventually die; they cannot survive the winter walking alone.

III. Moral: We cannot survive either if we try to walk alone.

A. Physically we need people to help us.

B. Spiritually we need help for our faith to survive and grow.

C. This is very important in our American culture

1. We tend to be very independent, "Lone Rangers."
2. People say, "I don't need the Church, bishop, priests, Mass, or sacraments; I can do this myself!"
3. As Frank Sinatra sang: "I did it my way."
4. But our spiritual lives will not flourish and thrive if we try to do this alone.
5. That is why Jesus founded the Church on the Rock of St. Peter, saying, "On this Rock I will build my Church" (Matthew 16:18).

IV. The Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Communion tell us that we don't have to walk alone on our journey of faith.

A. The whole Church is there to walk with us: symbolism of the Cathedral.

B. The Bishop conveys the gift of the Holy Spirit.

C. The oil symbolizes the strength of the Holy Spirit: Olympic athletes.

D. Jesus gave us the Sacraments as a way to receive the graces needed to be holy, that is, to become a saint.

E. We need those graces early in life to resist the temptations of this world.

F. That is why we are implementing the Restored Order for the Sacraments of Initiation in our diocese

1. The "restored order" refers to receiving the Sacraments of Initiation in the original sequence practiced by the Church for centuries,

namely, first Baptism, which is strengthened with the gifts of the Holy Spirit at Confirmation, which is completed with the reception of Holy Communion.

2. The original sequence of the Sacraments of Initiation is like climbing a mountain: Baptism is the start of the climb at the base of the mountain; Confirmation is the boost needed to continue the ascent; and Eucharist is the summit at the top of the mountain.
3. The “restored order” also provides for our young people to receive the graces of these sacraments around the age of reason.

(read selected answers to questionnaires)

V. Song by Martin Doman, "Open Wide the Doors to Christ"¹

Two thousand years ago, You came into our lives.

You came to bring our hearts back to the warmth of your love.

So we celebrate, we evangelize, we reconcile our hearts to you;
we celebrate, we evangelize, we reconcile our hearts to you.

Open wide the doors to Christ, let Him come into your heart.

Open wide, receive His life, we have hope anew in Christ.

For unto us a child was born to you and me.

He came to show that life could be life abundantly.

So we lift His name on high, we praise Him as we sing:

Open wide the doors to Christ, let Him come into your heart.

Open wide, receive His life, we have hope anew in Christ.

Jesus comes to us today, He's present in this place.

This Eucharistic meal is our life, our hope, our grace.

So we humbly come receive, we worship, we believe.

Open wide the doors to Christ, let Him come into your heart.

Open wide, receive His life, we have hope anew in Christ.

May God give us this grace. Amen.

¹ Martin Doman, "Open Wide the Doors to Christ," track 1 from the Compact Disk, God's Goodness So Far 1996-2000.