Q1. (Faith) St. Paul refers to himself as an Apostle, called by the Risen Lord to preach the Gospel and to have the authority as a bishop equal to that of the other Apostles. Recall that when Philip, a deacon, baptized, the Holy Spirit did not fall on the newly baptized. The Apostles (bishops), Peter and James were called to lay hands on them, and the Holy Spirit fell upon them. In this chapter we see St. Paul performing the same Sacrament of Confirmation that St. Peter and James had done. How does this strengthen your understanding of the authority of a bishop to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation and that St. Paul also had that authority?

Romans 1:1

1 Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God

Acts 8:14-17

14 Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent them Peter and John,

15 who went down and prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit,

16 for it had not yet fallen upon any of them;   
they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

17Then they laid hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

Acts 19:5-6

5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

6 And when Paul laid [his] hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them,   
and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.

Q2. (Hope) As Catholics we venerate relics in faithful hope that the prayers of the associated saint will be beneficial and supportive of our prayerful petitions. How do you see this hope validated in this chapter?

Acts 19:11-12

11 So extraordinary were the mighty deeds God accomplished at the hands of Paul

12 that when face cloths or aprons that touched his skin were applied to the sick,   
their diseases left them, and the evil spirits came out of them.

CCC1674

Besides sacramental liturgy and sacramentals, catechesis must take into account the forms of piety and popular devotions among the faithful. The religious sense of the Christian people has always found expression in various forms of piety surrounding the Church's sacramental life, such as the veneration of relics, visits to sanctuaries, pilgrimages, processions, the stations of the cross, religious dances, the rosary, medals, etc.

Q3. (Love) In this chapter St Paul is in Ephesus, presumably with his companion St. Luke. Early Church Fathers tell us that St. John the Apostle and Gospel writer, to whom Our Lord entrusted the care of Our Blessed Mother from the cross, settled in Ephesus. Picture yourself as St Luke at dinner in Ephesus with Our Blessed Mother, and Sts. Paul and John. What questions might you want to ask? What could they tell you about the birth and early years of Our Lord? Might you want to include those stories from the mouths of the very participants in the Gospel you were writing?

Luke 1:1-4

1 Since many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the events   
that have been fulfilled among us,

2 just as those who were eyewitnesses from the beginning   
and ministers of the word have handed them down to us,

3 I too have decided, after investigating everything accurately anew, to write it down in an orderly sequence for you, most excellent Theophilus,

4 so that you may realize the certainty of the teachings you have received.

A1. (Faith) St. Paul refers to himself as an Apostle, called by the Risen Lord to preach the Gospel and to have the authority as a bishop equal to that of the other Apostles. Recall that when Philip, a deacon, baptized, the Holy Spirit did not fall on the newly baptized. The Apostles (bishops), Peter and James were called to lay hands on them, and the Holy Spirit fell upon them. In this chapter we see St. Paul performing the same Sacrament of Confirmation that St. Peter and James had done. How does this strengthen your understanding of the authority of a bishop to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation and that St. Paul also had that authority?

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It is clear from his calling, years of instruction by the Risen Lord, and finally being sent forth by the Holy Spirit that St. Paul was indeed an Apostle with the authority of a bishop to preach, Baptize and Confirm the faithful, ordain priests and deacons and do all things necessary to bring the world to faith in Jesus, Our Lord.

A2. (Hope) As Catholics we venerate relics in faithful hope that the prayers of the associated saint will be beneficial and supportive of our prayerful petitions. How do you see this hope validated in this chapter?

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I believe the teachings of the Church. Relics in themselves have no power. But God responding to sincere faith and hope responds to faithful prayer and worship, has the power to respond to these acts of piety by granting their requests. We have seen it on many occasions in the Scriptures which were written for our instruction so there is no reason to believe it would not continue to this day.

Romans 15:4

4 For whatever was written previously was written for our instruction,   
that by endurance and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope.

A3. (Love) In this chapter St Paul is in Ephesus, presumably with his companion St. Luke. Early Church Fathers tell us that St. John the Apostle and Gospel writer, to whom Our Lord entrusted the care of Our Blessed Mother from the cross, settled in Ephesus. Picture yourself as St Luke at dinner in Ephesus with Our Blessed Mother, and Sts. Paul and John. What questions might you want to ask? What could they tell you about the birth and early years of Our Lord? Might you want to include those stories from the mouths of the very participants in the Gospel you were writing?

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As respectfully as possible, I would want to ask Our Blessed Mother everything I could think of about Jesus

* What he was like personally?
* What are some stories about His years as a young boy?
* What worried you most about Him?
* How did he prepare you for the Passion that was to come?
* What was it like after the Resurrection?
* What was Pentecost like when the Holy Spirit came?