

Letter to Confirming Bishop



Even though you don't think about it— you have been preparing yourself for Confirmation since you were baptized! Like all sacraments you must freely choose to receive it. This is God's gift to you.

It is required that you write the Bishop a letter expressing your desire to be confirmed. The letter should be given to Mrs. Ishizaki (you may bring the letter to the Christian Formation Office or drop it off in the mailbox that looks like a church at the entrance to the parish center) ***no later than March 3rd*** and she will send all the letters to the Bishop in one envelope. (The Archbishop would like a few weeks to read the letters before celebrating Confirmation). Please know that Bishop may refer to your letters during the homily. He is not looking for "textbook" answers, but truly wants to get to know YOU and your thoughts about being confirmed.

The letter should be a formal (2 page) letter. It should be either typed or neatly hand-written. (***Make sure to spell check your letter AND to capitalize God***). The following are examples of items you should include in your letter:

1. The letter should be addressed: **Your Excellency or Bishop Haines**
2. Introduce yourself to the Bishop. Tell him about your family, what you enjoy doing in your "extra time, etc. You want to give him an idea of who you are.
3. Explain to the Bishop your desire to be confirmed. Tell him why this sacrament important to you. What does the sacrament mean to you? Describe things of impact in preparing for Confirmation (e.g. attending Mass and receiving the Eucharist, your prayer life, your retreat, receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation, classes, religious education teachers, etc.)
4. How do you plan on continuing to grow in your faith after Confirmation? Remembering that Confirmation is a gift from God—what are you going to do with your "Gifts of the Holy Spirit?"
5. Explain to the Bishop some types of service that you have done, i.e., workcamp (not necessarily this year) or service projects that have had an effect on your life and why? (Remember service takes place in your home, in school, in your community or the larger community—it is not measured in hours but should become your state of mind!)
6. A warm closing and sign your letter in your own handwriting.

If you need any help with the writing of your letter, please do not hesitate to call Mrs. Ishizaki at 966-7010, ext. 127.