

## **Guidelines for writing your letter to the Bishop**

### **Use the following questions as a guide:**

1. How have you grown in your relationship with God and His Church as you have prepared to be Confirmed? Give specific examples, if possible.
2. What Confirmation (saint) name have you chosen and why?
3. What does it mean that you are “chosen”?
4. As you begin to look at life after high school, how will what you have learned influence the decisions you make about your future?
5. Talk about the phrase from the YOU program, “Never before and never again will there be another you.” Why is it important to understand your important role in the history of the world?
6. How do you see yourself serving Christ in the world?

### **Be sure to consider the following:**

- Our Bishops and pastor WILL read these!
- The letter should begin: *Dear Bishop Barnes,*
- The letter doesn't have to be long, but it should thoroughly and honestly answer the questions above. Write from your heart!
- You may write the letter by hand (if your handwriting is legible). If not, please type and double space.
- Please sign the letter with your full name (also print your name if your signature is not legible)
- The letter should be completed and brought with you to your final interview in April..

## **Guidelines for your Final Interview**

1. This interview is meant to determine readiness to receive the sacrament of Confirmation and to answer any questions you may have. Those found unready may need to postpone the sacrament.
2. You will make your final interview appointment at the April 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting in the hall from 3:00-5:30pm.
3. The interview will take approximately 60 minutes. Please be on time and dress appropriately.
4. You will meet with Mrs. Aguilar, one of the catechists, or another member of the Holy Name of Jesus staff.
5. Please come to the side door of the Olive office (the Annex entrance) for your interview. This is located to the left of the walking path between the church and the Olive office as you walk from Olive Ave. Please ring the bell and we will let you in. We will have signs posted on the door for your convenience.
6. Bring your letter to the Bishop and be prepared to answer the 20 *Chosen Pre-Confirmation Interview Questions* provided at your first Spiritual Direction meeting this year.
7. If we feel you are ready to receive the sacrament, you will be given a formal Confirmation announcement and your tickets to the Confirmation dinner.

## **Guidelines for Choosing a Sponsor**

Your sponsor should be an adult—preferably someone over 21. Choose someone who is a good role model for you. Pick someone you find easy to talk to and someone you feel understands you pretty well; part of the process is picking someone who can continue to be in a close relationship with you even after Confirmation is over.

The role of the Confirmation Sponsor is to support you in your journey of faith and to stand up with you to say you are ready to receive the Sacrament. They do this by participating in your Confirmation journey and helping to prepare you. They also do this in a literal way during the Rite of Confirmation by presenting you to the Bishop and saying, “This person is ready to be confirmed!” They are welcome to attend classes with you.

Here are the minimum qualifications of a sponsor:

1. The sponsor must be a Confirmed, practicing Catholic who attends Mass
2. The sponsor must be older than 18
3. The sponsor can't be your parent but can be a sibling or godparent who meets the other qualifications
4. The sponsor will attend an important meeting with you in April (date to be determined)
5. The sponsor will attend rehearsal and celebratory dinner on the night before Confirmation from 5:15-8:15pm. Meet in the church.

## **Guidelines for Choosing a Confirmation Name**

It is the tradition of the church for candidates for Confirmation to choose a saint that you emulate and take their name as your Confirmation name. Many times in the Bible we see disciples of Christ re-named when they are given a great call to action: Abram to Abraham; Saul to Paul; Simon to Peter. We ask that you use your Chosen workbook, look online or use other resources to research saints and take time to choose one that really lived a life you would like to emulate.

The bishop often asks candidates during the Confirmation Mass which saint you have chosen and why. If you say, “St. Teresa,” he might say, “Which St. Teresa,” so be ready with an answer! You will indicate the name you have chosen on your Sponsor/Candidate Form which needs to be turned in at the Sponsor/Candidate meeting in April.

## **Guidelines for Dressing for Confirmation**

**Girls:** Wear a dress or skirt or slacks and appropriate blouse. Remember: no cleavage, bare shoulders, or short skirts. (Skirts should come at least to the top of the knee). No flip flops or unreasonably high heels. There is no color requirement for your dress, but red and sometimes white are colors traditionally associated with Confirmation

**Boys:** Wear slacks, dress shirt, tie and jacket (optional). Dress shoes should be worn, or very clean and tidy sneakers may also be worn. No jeans, slouching trousers; no flip flops or flashy shoes. Hair should be neat and clean. Although no color is required, red and sometimes, white, are colors traditionally associated with Confirmation.