# A LETTER TO THE BISHOP - REQUESTING THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

It is essential that each candidate express his or her desire to be confirmed in writing to the Bishop. In the letter you share who you are and a little about yourself, why you wish to be confirmed, as well as whom your confirmation saint is and why you chose that saint. Before the celebration of Confirmation, the Bishop is required by Canon Law to know that candidates have been properly prepared. He should also know that each candidate has a desire for, and knowledge of, the sacrament.

To help the Bishop meet his responsibilities, each Confirmation candidate must write a personal letter to the Bishop requesting the Sacrament of Confirmation. The purpose of this letter is to introduce yourself to the Bishop and to explain your Confirmation preparation experience as well as to assure him that you are asking for the sacrament freely. All the letters are mailed together from the Parish to the confirming Bishop prior to the Confirmation ceremony; for this reason, **late letters will not be accepted**. **The Bishop personally reads each letter he is sent and often refers to them during the Confirmation ceremony.**

The questions below should ***help you*** *reflect on some of the things you may want to include in your letter* to the Bishop. Answer the questions below, and then write a first draft of your letter requesting the Sacrament of Confirmation. Then, after leaving it sit and praying on it for some time, write your final draft.

* Your letter should be about one page in length using 1-inch margins and a business-style 12-point font. Single space the paragraphs of the letter.
* The letter may be typed and must be at least 4 paragraphs long. If it is handwritten it must be on loose leaf paper – no fringes! It must be your own work and signed by you. There is no ‘right’ way to do it since everyone’s experience is different. Please try to avoid just going down the list below.
* Please make sure that you sign your letter with your name.

Dear Bishop Pohlmeier ,

* In what ways has the preparation of the Sacrament of Confirmation helped you?
* How does the Catholic Church understand the Eucharist? What does the Eucharist mean to you personally.
* What will you do for the Church – for the society as a confirmed Catholic?
* What is your basic prayer life? Tell me about your prayer life as an individual and as part of a family.
* Explain the definition of stewardships and how Confirmation calls you to be a steward for others.
* Is there a particular Saint you have come to know about and learn about? If so, who is it? What qualities of the Saint do you hope to imitate in your life after Confirmation?

**DUE FEB. 1st**