



Letter To The Bishop

Due Sunday, December 15 (Session #6)

You, the Confirmation candidate, will be asked to write a letter to the Bishop. This is a requirement of Confirmation for all candidates in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. It is an opportunity for you to reflect on your personal journey of faith discovery over the course of the Confirmation preparation period. In the letter, you should state your desire for Confirmation and explain why you are making this choice. This letter should be well thought out and typed. The letters will be collected and sent together in one package to the Bishop's office. Some suggestions are listed below:

- Please start the letter with the appropriate greeting, "Dear Bishop_____." (You will be notified once we know who the Bishop will be for the liturgy.)
- Introduce yourself. Perhaps include something about your family or your involvement in your parish, St. Joseph's.
- Request that you would like to be confirmed or receive the grace of the Holy Spirit at Confirmation.
- **What do you think will be the most significant change in your life as a result of receiving the sacrament of Confirmation?**
- **Remember that those who are confirmed are true witnesses of Christ and are therefore required to spread the faith by word and deed. What are some practical ways that you can spread the faith?**
- **What type of service project did you do in preparation for Confirmation and in what way will you serve the Church in the future? Are you willing to think and pray about becoming a priest or a sister?**
- What does it mean to you to receive the sacrament of Confirmation?
- Discuss how you have prepared for Confirmation through prayer, regular attendance at mass, Confirmation classes, retreat, community service, etc.
- What did you learn about the Saint you chose for your Saint Paper? Has this saint become a part of your life? What Christian name have you chosen? Why does this name have special meaning for you?
- What have you learned about yourself through the Decision Point program? What does it mean to you to know that God calls you to "be your best version of yourself?" How does that make you feel?
- How has your relationship with your peers, your sponsor, your group facilitators and your parents changed as you prepared for Confirmation? How do you desire it to grow?
- Express appreciation to the Bishop for reading your letter and/or praying for you as you prepare for Confirmation.
- Close your letter with, "Sincerely," and then your signature below

The above are simply suggestions on how to get started. **The bold points come directly from the Bishop's Office.** The other ideas are questions that may spur your thinking as you go to write your letter and are meant to help you think through what you would like to say. This is your letter and your journey is unique to you. You may incorporate as much or as little of the suggestions as you find appropriate. Please keep the letter to ONE PAGE, typed.