



St. Agnes Parish  
Sacrament of Confirmation

Dear Candidate for the Sacrament of Confirmation,

The story of your life as a Christian began at your Baptism. You were marked with the sign of the cross which symbolized you being welcomed into the Christian community and being claimed by Christ as a disciple. You were anointed with chrism as a sign that you were given the gift of the Holy Spirit. You received the grace to avoid sin and live as a child of God. Baptized with water and the Spirit, you were marked forever as belonging to Christ. Promises were made in your name by your parents and godparents. These promises committed you to be a follower of Jesus Christ. As a disciple of Jesus, you are to speak and act as Jesus would in every situation in your life.

Now your faith journey brings you to the Sacrament of Confirmation. Confirmation offers you a special challenge to spread the faith by both word and action, and to strive to live as a true witness of Christ. You will renew the promises made at Baptism and will again be anointed with chrism. By choosing to be confirmed, you are saying that you desire and are willing to make a lifelong commitment to serve as Jesus did. This is an essential element in the Sacrament of Confirmation. Being sealed with the gift of the Spirit will empower you to keep your word and fulfill your promises.

Share this letter with your parents as you begin preparing to make this important commitment. The person who is ready and serious about receiving Confirmation has cause for celebration, because that person, confirmed in the Spirit, can do great things in the Church and among God's people. Without your commitment to our faith and Jesus, your day of confirmation will be just another day with no special meaning.

The Church asks you to demonstrate your desire to commit yourself to this sacrament and the Catholic faith in many ways. You are asked to commit yourself to developing your personal prayer life. This includes your own daily prayer routine as well as participating at Mass on Sunday and receiving the Sacraments of Penance and Eucharist regularly. You are asked to give time to study and learn more about the Church and the sacraments. You are asked to reach out to others (serve others) as you

witness your faith in God who loves you deeply and desires your commitment to serve Him, love Him, and praise Him. This is not an easy task and it cannot be taken lightly. However, it should be an exciting, happy, and fulfilling time for you, your parents and your sponsor.

At this time the Church looks to you for signs of growth and maturity which give evidence of service and witness to Christ by the way you live in your private life, your life within your family, and then how you interact in the broader picture of neighborhood, school, and parish. This is a lot to think about before you take on the commitment to live a fuller Christ-like life in the Sacrament of Confirmation. Identify people in your life who are examples of good Catholic Christians and who will support you in these months of preparation. We, your teachers and catechists, promise to guide you in your understanding and knowledge of what you are about to undertake. The community of St. Agnes is praying for you as well.

May God's graces be with you as you continue on your journey in faith preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Anne Hayes, DRE



Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation is:

I. A Time to Pray - Communicate with God

Develop a personal plan of prayer - set aside a time during each day to talk to God. During this time you can pray memorized prayers or just talk to God in your own prayer words. Ask Mary, your patron saint or the saint whose name you will choose for Confirmation to pray for you, too.

Examine your conscience often and know that you are being the best person you can be at all times.

Say the Act of Contrition and listen to the words as you pray the prayer.

Attend Mass each Sunday and on holydays.

II. A Time to Study

Learn about the Church and the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Put thought and effort into every lesson, every chapter in your book, every question and answer you read, every assignment you complete.

Prepare each assignment carefully and return it on time.

III. A Time to Express Your Desire to be Confirmed

You will be asked to write two letters. One will be to our pastor, Msgr. John Wendrychowicz and the other will be to your sponsor. We will discuss this more completely when we return to class in September.

IV. A Time to Begin a Lifetime Commitment to Witness and Service

Candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation are asked to demonstrate their desire to accept a fuller commitment to God and His Church through obvious acts of service to others. Reaching out to others is a process of moving from **selfishness** to **selflessness**. Young people like you work wonders by volunteering in loving service. By accepting the commitment to serve you are showing that you understand that the life of a confirmed Catholic Christian is one of witness faith by doing for others, even in very small ways. Blessed Teresa of Calcutta told us to "do small things with great love" and that is the best way to imitate the great love of Jesus. Your service and witness begins in your own home and moves into your parish, your neighborhood and your community.

Begin "doing" for others NOW and think about the importance of being of service. Think about how it affects YOU and the person you are helping. Use the attached BLUE FORM to write down some of what you do for others.

You will return the blue form by January 26, 2011. You will, also, be asked to do a "project" type of service. The Shoebox Collection (in this folder) is one project that is to be completed during the summer and returned in Sept. Some projects will be completed during the school year, but you can start planning for them now.



Get an idea...  
and help someone!  
do something for someone!  
think of others!



Clean the garage



Clean the bathroom, your room,  
the basement, the family room



Cook a meal,  
Serve it,  
Clean up after it.

Have a non-perishable food  
collection in your family or in  
your neighborhood. Donate  
the food to a local food  
bank/pantry like FISH or  
The Lord's Cupboard.

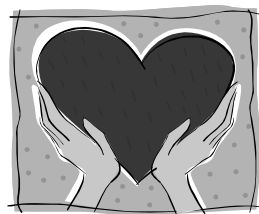


Read to someone younger.  
Read to someone older.  
Visit the home-bound.  
Visit an elderly neighbor.  
Offer your time at a nursing home.

Rake leaves,  
shovel snow,  
move trash cans on  
pick up day...for your  
family or a neighbor.



**SERVE OTHERS...in your home, in your parish, in your community!**



**GIVE FROM YOUR HEART**