

Holy Family Area Catholic Community

Church of St. Andrew, Granite Falls

Church of St. James, Dawson

Church of St. Joseph, Montevideo



Confirmation Handbook 2025-2027

(Jesus) said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the holy Spirit."

John 20:21-22



Preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation is a process of discovery that welcomes young Catholics into a deeper relationship with God and into the life and mission of the Catholic community. The purpose of our Confirmation Program is to “mentor youth toward an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, and the Catholic Church.” The Confirmation preparation process is designed to fulfill this purpose by focusing on the following aspects: Mentorship, Faith Formation, Spiritual Renewal, and Discipleship.

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Mentorship

Role of the Parents (*Life-Long Mentors*)

Parents are the first and primary catechist of the faith and are a vital role model for their children. Parents need to be strong leaders by learning, and being active in their own faith. We believe as Christians that "being family" means more than having dignity; it means taking responsibility and realizing the mission of the Catholic family. Children learn what they live, but first and foremost, they learn what their parents live.

Expectations for Parents:

- Make time to pray for your son/daughter each day.
- Attend and participate fully in weekly/Holy Day Masses together.
- Help their son/daughter choose a suitable sponsor (see below).
- Help their son/daughter research a Saint/choose a Confirmation name.
- Help monitor their son/daughter's progress toward completion of the Confirmation preparation commitments.
- Model Christian charity (love) and discipleship.

Role of the Sponsor (*Spiritual Mentors*)

Sponsors at Confirmation represent the believing Christian Community. Thus, it is required that they be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church and have themselves received the Sacraments of Initiation, which are Baptism, Holy Eucharist and Confirmation and have reached the age of 16.

In addition to the above, sponsors must also meet the following criteria:

- They participate in Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation at their Catholic Church weekly.
- They are an active member in the life of their parish to the best of their abilities.
- They are faithful to the teachings of the Catholic Church.
- If they are married, they are married validly in the Catholic Church.
- If they are not married, they are not living with anyone in an intimate relationship.
- If they have children, they are educating their children in the Catholic faith.
- Sponsors will continue to serve as a Spiritual mentor to their Candidate for their lifetime (praying for their candidate regularly after Confirmation).

The Code of Canon Law 892 states... **"Insofar as possible, there is to be a sponsor for the person to be confirmed; the sponsor is to take care that the confirmed person behaves as a true witness of Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations inherent in this sacrament."**

Remember that being a "Sponsor" at a Sacrament makes them a proper representative of the Catholic Church. If someone does not meet the criteria mentioned above, the role of representative would not be appropriate for them. How could someone ever represent a group in which they no longer participate? Candidates can avoid hurting the feelings of family and friends by choosing a person who can easily fulfill these basic requirements. If you do not know of someone who can fulfill this requirement, please reach out to the Faith Formation office as soon as possible.

Saints (*Unseen Mentors*)

Candidates for confirmation are asked to choose a name of a saint in which they would like to be confirmed. A saint is someone who has gone before us marked with the sign of faith. They are a disciple of Christ who has lived a life of exemplary fidelity to the Lord, a life of heroic virtue. A patron saint provides us with a model of charity, and we are assured of their prayers for us (CCC 2156). Choose a saint that is a patron and model that you would like to look up to. Candidates should choose a patron saint's name because of the attractiveness of the Christian life that that person led. The chosen Saint's name will become the candidate's Confirmation name.



Parish Community (*Full Community Mentors*)

Once during Year 1 , and again during Year 2– request a job shadow/interview with someone who is in a leadership or volunteer role in your parish. It may be a member of the Area Pastoral Council, Parish Administrative Council, Catholic United Financial Officer, CCW council member, Knights of Columbus member, catechist, song leader, choir member, lector, homebound communion minister, usher, greeter, sacristan, or a staff person. Please plan to spend at least one (1) hour shadowing and/or participating each person as they participate in their role. Please interview them afterward in order to process your experience. (Please choose someone who is not a personal relative of yours.)

Candidates seeking the Sacrament of Confirmation commit to completing the following Mentorship milestones:

Attend Parent/Student Formation Nights – Candidates & Parents are to attend 4 Faith Formation Speaker Nights (2 in Year One, 2 in Year Two).

Discerning a Sponsor – This worksheet gives Candidates direction on how to select a sponsor who will guide them on their faith journey. This must be turned into the Faith Formation office **BEFORE** one truly asks anyone to be their sponsor.

Asking a Sponsor – This worksheet is to be given to the Sponsor to then complete and send back to the Faith Formation office (Sponsor should mail this to the Faith Formation office.)

Faith Sharing – Candidates & Sponsors will meet 4 times throughout the preparation time to complete the Faith sharing questions together.

Select a Confirmation Name – Candidates will be given directions to research Saints and discern a Confirmation name of significance to them.

Service/Ministry Discernment– During Year 1, candidates will request a job shadow/interview in two areas with someone whom they can learn from in their volunteer role.

Faith Formation – Sacramental Preparation

Ongoing Faith Formation

As candidates prepare for Confirmation it is vitally important for them to continue to grow in knowledge and understanding of God’s word as well as the traditions, teachings, and practices of the Catholic Church. Our Catholic faith is vast in scope, rooted in centuries of theology, and rich in symbol, prayer, and practice.

One could study for a lifetime and still not fully know all that can be known about the Catholic Church or its teachings and traditions. During this preparation, Year 1 candidates will be studying *“YOU: Life, Love and The Theology of the Body”*. *“YOU”* helps young people discover the truth about their bodies, their sexuality, and their unique call to love. *“YOU”* presents young people with the extraordinary story of their creation as unique and unrepeatable individuals.

Year 2 candidates will learn about the depth and richness of the Catholic faith through the *“Symbolon for Teens”* curriculum from Augustine Institute. *“Symbolon for Teens: The Catholic Faith Explained”* is a systematic presentation of our Catholic Faith. It will lead students through the ‘big picture’ of the Catholic Faith using the Creed as the guide. *Symbolon* brings together some of the most trusted Catholic teachers in the world to guide our students in knowing and defending the faith.

Since class attendance is the main formation students receive, it is imperative that they are at all classes. If students miss a class for any reason, they will be given resources and be expected to make up the class on their own time. If students do not make up these class sessions, their Confirmation date may be delayed.



Mass: The “Source and Summit” of our Faith

For all Candidates and every Catholic, the Eucharist is an inexhaustible mystery to be loved and lived. It is a sacrament; it is a sacrifice; it is a meal; it is a liturgical celebration, a public proclamation of our faith in sign and symbol; it is the “source and summit” of our Christian experience where we are fed for the journey and it is our destination. To become the person of faith that God has called us to be, we must seek Christ in the sacraments; we must seek Christ in the Eucharist at Mass.

Because the Mass is so important, it is an essential part of the Confirmation preparation. Thus, we want to help our Confirmation students come to appreciate the beauty and the depth of the Heavenly liturgy of the Mass. The first step to appreciating the beauty and the depth of the Mass is being present at Mass. For this reason we ask all

Confirmation students to come to Mass every Saturday/Sunday. The obligation to attend Sunday and Holy Day Masses is a responsibility for all Catholics. We expect all of our Candidates to understand and follow this teaching, which is based on the Third Commandment (Keep Holy the Sabbath). **Candidates desiring to be Confirmed are expected to attend Mass every weekend and Holy Day of Obligation.**

We also ask that Candidates fill out **Homily notes** during this time of preparation. These forms serve as a way for you to grow in your personal prayer and reflection of what is happening during Mass. It should also help you to enter more fully into the experience. Some have found this exercise leads into a more faith-filled journaling habit. Homily notes need to be signed by the presiding Priest or Deacon; that way they have the chance to get to know our candidates throughout the year. (If you attend Catholic Mass outside of the Holy Family Area, then we ask that you bring a church bulletin from that parish, signed by the presiding Priest/Deacon, in addition to completing the homily notes).

If you are traveling out of the area, you can easily find a Mass located close to you at www.masstimes.org

(Note: Protestant services are not Mass. If you miss Mass on Saturday/Sunday or a Holy Day of Obligation through your own fault, knowing that it was a serious sin to miss Sunday Mass, then it is a mortal sin and you need to go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation before you can receive Holy Communion again (1 Corinthians 11:29). However, even in a state of mortal sin, all are still welcomed and highly encouraged to attend Mass. In lieu of receiving Holy Communion, one can make a spiritual communion in your pew; or can walk up to receive a blessing instead, until one can get a chance to go to Reconciliation.)

Candidates seeking the Sacrament of Confirmation commit to completing the following Sacramental Preparation milestones:

Attend Mass weekly/Holy Days – All candidates preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation are expected to attend Mass every week.

Complete Homily Notes at each Mass

Commit to ongoing Faith Formation – All candidates preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation are expected to attend all classes and learn about the teachings and practices of the Faith by participating in Faith Formation classes. Any classes missed will need to be made up by visiting with the Faith Formation Coordinator.

Spiritual Renewal - Retreats

Taking Time for God – Few people take time to be still and rest in God’s presence. But consider the Lord’s instruction, “Be still and know that I am God.” This is why the US Bishops feel that it is imperative that all candidates preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation set aside a period of time so they can build an intimate relationship with the Lord. Retreats are wonderful opportunities to step away from life’s busyness and spend time reflecting more deeply on one’s relationship with God. They are meant to draw youth into a closer relationship with God and into a closer relationship with others. Retreats also serve to help candidates discern their response to God’s outpouring of love and how they will live the sacraments as a regular part of the faith community. One of our primary goals is to connect youth to their parish community, Holy Family Area Catholic Community, and provide retreat experiences specific to Confirmation.

Retreat Options – Candidates may choose from numerous retreat options over the next seventeen months. The Faith Formation Coordinator will give each candidate a list of possible opportunities that qualify as retreat options, along with dates and further information. If you have an idea that is not on the list, please speak with the Faith Formation Coordinator *prior* to registering/attending to be sure that the experience qualifies.

Candidates seeking the Sacrament of Confirmation commit to completing at least one Retreat experience:

Pre-Approved Retreat Experiences:

Diocese of New Ulm Discipleship Camp

Camp Greatness (boys) – August 2026

Camp Beloved (girls) – July 2026

Steubenville Youth Conference

July 2026

NET Ministries Weekend Confirmation Retreat

Variable Dates throughout the year

Totus Tuus

June 2026

TEC-Together Encountering Christ

Variable Dates throughout the year

Discipleship – Volunteer Service

"Christ has no body on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which Christ's compassion for the world is to look out; yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good; and yours are the hands with which He is to bless us now." ~Saint Teresa of Avila

Service is a vital part of Christian living. To follow Christ's example, we must learn how to pour out our very lives for one another. In preparation for Confirmation, we will explore how to be Christ for others and see Christ in others. Through the sacrament of Confirmation, you will be "strengthened by the Holy Spirit to spread and defend your faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ" (CCC 1303).

Church Volunteer Service

The service component of Confirmation preparation is asked by the Bishops in order to provide candidates with a variety of experiences and opportunities to share their gifts. Students in the Holy Family Area are asked to participate in two (2) Job Shadow Opportunities within their parish to learn about serving their parish, but also to see the beauty of serving others. **Examples are:**

- Liturgical: Helping a Sacristan, singing in the choir, ushering, altar serving, leading an altar serving class with Father, lectoring, etc.
- Organizations: Learning more/ Participating in CCW, Knights of Columbus, Moms' Group, OCIA, Parish Councils, etc.
- Helping in the FF office (mailings, bulletin boards, office work, translating documents, etc)
- Help decorate the church for the different seasons
- Help with younger students at Vacation Bible School or Totus Tuus at your parish
- Help with fundraisers for the parish, the CCW or the Knights of Columbus
- Volunteer to serve as a Catechist Assistant with a younger grade
- Volunteer for youth events and fall festivals, church dinners, hospitality events
- Babysit for families attending parent meetings, missions or retreats
- Visiting a member of the parish who is homebound
- Helping in the kitchen at a funeral luncheon

Community Volunteer Service

The aim of community service is to provide candidates with an opportunity to follow Jesus' teaching and put their faith into action in ways that help to build up families and the

greater community. This ministry emphasizes the recognition of our own unique gifts, talents, and interests as gifts for God and to use those gifts to make our world a better place. **Examples of Community Service:**

- Volunteer to babysit for someone (without being paid, of course!)
- Volunteer to help senior members of the parish or your neighbors with yard work, cleaning or snow removal
- Visit an elderly person (someone you are not related to) and play games with them
- Volunteer at the local food shelf, form a food drive, or participate in a food pack event (e.g. Feed My Starving Children event, Backpack program or similar)
- Volunteer at school (mentoring, tutoring, helping teachers in classrooms, volunteering for a sports camp)
- Cook a meal and bring it to someone in need (ill, recovering from surgery, etc)
- Volunteer at sports events as referees, coaching, or in concession stand
- Volunteer your time for other fundraisers within the community (so long as you aren't getting 'payment' in any way for this help).

About Volunteer Ministry

Young people have a tremendous capacity and energy to perform great works of charity (love). Most do this with vitality and joy. What a blessing!

Our youth are not just the *future of the Church*-- they are a *vital* part of the Church TODAY! The Catholic Church needs the optimism, perspective, and energy of our teens in abundance. To this end, we invite all of our candidates to dig into their volunteer efforts with the same focus and enthusiasm as many of their other interests or hobbies. If not for their own sake (satisfaction of helping others, learning more about your faith/God, discovering an area of passion etc.), then for the sake of a Church and a world that desperately need their ideas, energy, and example.

Candidates seeking the Sacrament of Confirmation commit to complete the following Volunteer Service Milestones (20 hours total):

Church Volunteer Service (5 Hours, Minimum) – Each candidate commits to volunteer a minimum of 5 hours for their local parish or within their Catholic Area Community

Community Service – Each candidate commits to volunteer service that benefits the community at large.

Important Notes ...

Letter to Bishop and Pastor - Towards the end of the second year, Candidates will be asked to write a letter to the Bishop and to the pastor (Fr. John Hayes) to explain their desire to be confirmed in the Catholic Church. In this letter, you will write about your faith journey and make a statement about your beliefs. You will talk about your understanding of the Catholic Church and what gifts you bring to this Faith Community.

Confirmation Written Exam & Oral Interview - As the final step to Confirmation the Candidates will have a written exam and be interviewed. They will be asked to know the basics of the Catholic Faith. This will be done with the pastor or a Faith Formation Coordinator.

Sacrament of Reconciliation - “To receive Confirmation you must be in a state of grace. You should receive the sacrament of Reconciliation in order to be cleansed for the gift of the Holy Spirit” - CCC 1310. Monthly reception of this sacrament is best. Throughout the 2 years of Confirmation Preparation, Reconciliation will be offered to students during Advent, Lent, and during the Confirmation Retreats, as well as at the Confirmation practice. Students preparing for Confirmation should attend the Sacrament of Reconciliation willingly whenever it is available.



Dress Code for the Confirmation Mass - All candidates and sponsors are expected to dress appropriately. For young men: a pair of dress pants (no jeans), dress shoes, dress shirt, and a tie. Suit coats or sports coats would be ideal, but optional. For young ladies: a nice dress or dress pants/dress top. Dresses should be at least knee-length or longer, and not low-cut, must have sleeves or sweater.

Remember: This is a very special, holy, and sacred time, so please dress accordingly.

Confirmation - Holy Family Area Catholic Confirmation will be in the spring of Year 2, date to be announced. Professional group and individual photos will be available for purchase.

Candidate Pledge

Student Name: _____

I AGREE TO: *(student initials on blank lines)*

- Enter into the preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation with a willing heart and an open mind _____
- Work to the best of my ability to fulfill all the requirements in a timely manner _____
- Participate regularly in my Faith Formation classes and activities _____
- Willingly engage in service to others, both in my church and in my community _____
- Strive for regular times of personal prayer _____
- Attend and participate weekly in Sunday masses and Holy Days of obligation _____
- Support and encourage other candidates on their faith journey _____
- Maintain an open and honest relationship with my sponsor _____
- Accept greater responsibility in my family, my church, and my community _____

***I ASK THE HELP OF THE FATHER, THE SON, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT
IN MAKING AND FULFILLING THIS PLEDGE.***

Candidate's Signature _____ Date _____

Parents Pledge:

**We agree to encourage and guide our child, _____,
as he/she prepares for the Sacrament of Confirmation by word and
example. We will do all we can to support our child in actively fulfilling the
statements as listed above.**

Parent's Signature _____ Date _____

Parent's Signature _____ Date _____

DUE: December 31, 2025

DISCERNMENT OF A CONFIRMATION SPONSOR

Student Name: _____

– It is important to spend time in prayer, to discern the right Confirmation Sponsor to walk with you on this journey of faith and discovery. Please answer the following questions honestly, which will help you discern who could serve as your Confirmation sponsor. **Bring this form back to your FF Coordinator BEFORE asking anyone.**

A. On each line, Name two people that you know that are Catholic and ... (cannot be your parents)

1. Enjoy going to Mass on a regular basis: _____
2. Spend time in prayer regularly: _____
3. Joyfully serve their parish: _____
4. Are friendly and approachable: _____
5. Radiate happiness/joy: _____
6. Are role models for you in the faith: _____
7. Love Jesus: _____
8. Have made a difference in your life: _____

B. After answering/ discerning these questions, list the names that pop up on this list two times or more:

C. Take these names to prayer with the Lord. Ask the Lord for guidance. Pray with this passage: John 15: 1-11

D. Evaluate the following questions to see if the person you'd like to select is eligible to be your sponsor:

1. Has this person received all 3 Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Holy Eucharist and Confirmation) in the Catholic Church? Yes No (not eligible)
2. Is this person at least 16 years old? Yes No (not eligible)
3. Does this person actively practice the Catholic faith by attending Mass regularly on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation? Yes No (not eligible)
4. Is this person living with someone in a romantic relationship? Yes No
 - a. If yes, then was this person married to that person in the Catholic Church?
 Yes No (not eligible)
5. Has this person stopped practicing the Catholic Faith, and/or joined a different church?
 Yes (not eligible) No

E. Person I'd like to ask: _____

What qualities do you see in this person that serve as a model for you in Catholic living? (Please give at least three thoughtful reasons! Use the backside of this page if you need more space.)

Candidate/Baptismal Information Sheet

Complete Legal Name _____
First Middle Last

Date of Birth _____ Place of Birth _____

Place of Baptism _____
(Church) (Town & State)

(Baptism Date) (Phone Number)

Parents Names

Father _____
First Middle Last

Mother _____
First Maiden Last

Names of Siblings	_____	OLDER? YOUNGER?
	_____	OLDER? YOUNGER?
	_____	OLDER? YOUNGER?
	_____	OLDER? YOUNGER?

What are your greatest interests? _____

Who is your favorite saint? _____

What do you see as some of your natural gifts or talents? _____

How might you use those to build up the kingdom of God? _____

What do you see as one of your spiritual gifts? _____

What is a spiritual goal you might work on this year? _____

What is your favorite scripture quote? Why? _____

Tell about one of your favorite “Catholic” or “Church” Memories. _____

Name all of the activities you are currently active in within your parish.

Name all of the activities you are currently active in within your school/community.

Name one- two ministries within the parish that you would like to learn more about.

I ask the Parish to pray for me for:

Due: December 31st, 2025

CONFIRMATION SERVICE HOURS RECORD)

NAME: _____ PARISH: _____

[illegible]

Date of Service:	Hours of Service:	Circle One: Church or Community?	Describe the activity:	Signature of Supervisor:
		Church Community		
		Church Community		
		Church Community		
		Church Community		
		Church Community		
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		Church Community		

REMEMBER:

- At least **5 HOURS** must be related to Church activities at parishes in the Holy Family Area.
- All service hours must be **UNPAID**. You will need to complete a minimum of 20 hours.
- Service hours must be done for others who do not reside in your home.

Service/ Ministry Discernment and Job Shadowing

Name: _____ Parish: _____

Please select an area of Service/ Ministry that you would like a chance to get to experience. Then turn this form into your FF Coordinator, where they will give you the names/contact information of the person to contact. Ideally, this should be an area that you have not already worked in, and it should be with someone who is not an immediate family member.

CIRCLE YOUR TOP THREE CHOICES:

Parish Council: Meets four times a year to discuss the needs of the parish.

Stewardship Committee: Meets a few times a year to plan Stewardship/ Ministry needs and plans parish retreats.

Council of Catholic Women (girls only): Women's service organization (SA)

Knights of Columbus (boys only): Men's fraternal service organization (SJO or SJA)

Catechist: Teaches Faith Formation (must be in a younger grade than your own)

Sacristan: Sets up all the necessary materials before Masses, Baptisms, etc

Choir/Song Leader: Participates in the music at all masses/liturgies and practices before mass

Lector: Proclaims the 1st and 2nd Readings and Petitions at Mass

Usher: Helps parishioners find seating, gathers the offertory at masses

Greeter: Opens the doors and greet parishioners as they come into the church before Mass

Youth Leader/Helper: Participate at the Parish Level with activities with younger youth, such as at Youth Group, Totus Tuus, VBS, babysitting during Parent Meetings, etc.

Fundraisers: Participate in your Fall Festival planning committee, work at the fall festival in a new area, help work the kitchen for various fellowship dinners, potlucks, youth fundraisers, etc.

*****Please turn into your Faith Formation Coordinator** and they will get you the contact information of those in these areas. It is YOUR responsibility to connect with these individuals; they will NOT be contacting you.

Service/ Ministry Discernment– to be completed by FF Coordinator

Student Name: _____ Parish: _____

You have turned in your Ministry Discernment Sheet mentioning interest in the following areas:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Here is the contact information for those individuals who would help you learn more about these areas and can help you shadow them in their role. (As you participate, you may also count that time as service hours.)

Area 1: _____

Name of Contact: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Contacted this person by _____ on _____

Contacted this person by _____ on _____

Date of potential Job shadow: _____

Area 2: _____

Name of Contact: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Contacted this person by _____ on _____

Contacted this person by _____ on _____

Date of Potential Job Shadow: _____

Area 3: _____

Name of Contact: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Contacted this person by _____ on _____

Contacted this person by _____ on _____

Date of Potential Job Shadow: _____

Candidates Name: _____

Service/ Leadership Shadowing

Request a job shadow and interview with someone who is in service/ leadership in your parish. It may be a member of the Parish Administrative Council, Stewardship Committee, Catholic United Financial Officer, CCW council member, or Knights of Columbus. It could also be a catechist, song leader, choir member, lector, homebound communion minister, usher, greeter, sacristan, or a staff person. **Please choose someone who is not a personal relative of yours.** You need to spend at least one (1) hour shadowing and/or participating with this person as they participate in their role (you may spend more time with them if you wish). You may interview them after you have completed the work with them.

Name of person shadowed/ interviewed _____

Ministry Position _____

Duties that you watched/performed the person doing during your shadowing experience:

Interview questions (to be asked AFTER the shadowing experience):

1. How long have you been involved in your area of ministry?
2. How did you get your position? (elected, selected, volunteered, or paid)
3. Why did you agree to do it?
4. What are your responsibilities?
5. What do you like best about being in this ministry?
6. What's the hardest part about it?
7. Any other comments:

Candidate use the other side to answer these questions.

What impressed, surprised, or inspired you most during your time spent with the ministry leader?

Is this an area you could see yourself being part of in the future? Why or why not?

Candidates Name: _____

Service/ Leadership Shadowing

Request a job shadow and interview with someone who is in service/ leadership in your parish. It may be a member of the Parish Administrative Council, Stewardship Committee, Catholic United Financial Officer, CCW council member, or Knights of Columbus. It could also be a catechist, song leader, choir member, lector, homebound communion minister, usher, greeter, sacristan, or a staff person. **Please choose someone who is not a personal relative of yours. You need to spend at least one (1) hour shadowing and/or participating with this person as they participate in their role (you may spend more time with them if you wish).** You may interview them after you have completed the work with them.

Name of person shadowed/ interviewed _____

Ministry Position _____

Duties that you watched/performed the person doing during your shadowing experience:

Interview questions (to be asked AFTER the shadowing experience):

8. How long have you been involved in your area of ministry?

9. How did you get your position? (elected, selected, volunteered, or paid)

10. Why did you agree to do it?

11. What are your responsibilities?

12. What do you like best about being in this ministry?

13. What's the hardest part about it?

14. Any other comments:

Candidate use the other side to answer these questions.

What impressed, surprised, or inspired you most during your time spent with the ministry leader?

Is this an area you could see yourself being part of in the future? Why or why not?

Would you be my Confirmation Sponsor?

Student: _____ Approx. Confirmation date: _____

Please Read and complete the questions below BEFORE agreeing to be this student's Confirmation Sponsor.

Sponsor Requirements:

- Sponsors must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church, actively participating in the Catholic faith by attending Mass regularly on Sundays & Holy Days.
- Sponsors must be an active member in the life of their parish church, including their own life of prayer, personal formation, participation in parish ministry, and involvement in acts of charity and justice.
- Sponsors must have received all three Sacraments of Initiation, which are Baptism, Holy Eucharist and Confirmation in the Catholic Church and have reached the age of 16.
- If Sponsors are married, they must have been validly married through the Catholic Church. (Code of Canon Law 892)
- Sponsors must also be available/willing to meet with their Candidate in person at least four times throughout the process, along with attending certain events with them and supporting them in their discipleship AFTER Confirmation.

Sponsor Name: _____

Sponsor Cell Phone Number: _____ Sponsor email: _____

Sponsor's Mailing Address, City, State, Zip: _____

Sponsor's Home Parish Name/City/State: _____

- I have received all 3 Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Holy Eucharist and Confirmation) in the Catholic Church? Yes No (not eligible)
- I am at least 16 years old? Yes No (not eligible)
- I actively practice the Catholic Faith by going to Mass regularly on Sundays & Holy Days?
Yes No (not eligible)
- If I am currently living with someone, I am validly married to that person in the Catholic Church?
Yes No (not eligible)
Wedding date: _____ Church/Location: _____
- I believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and that I am faithful to the teachings of the Catholic Church.
Yes No (not eligible)

Sponsor's Signature

Sponsor's Printed Name

Date

Signature of Sponsor's Pastor: _____

(SPONSOR: Once you have your pastor's signature, please mail back to: Area FF Coordinator,
% Holy Family Area Catholic Community, 512 Black Oak Ave., Montevideo MN 56265)

Retreat Experience Reflection

Steubenville Youth Conference, Diocese of New Ulm Discipleship Camp (Camp Greatness/Camp Beloved), NET Ministries Weekend Confirmation Retreat, Totus Tuus or Together Encountering Christ (TEC) Weekend.

The retreat I attended: _____

Date(s)/Location of this Retreat: _____

Describe the retreat in detail. _____

What if anything has changed in your life because of this retreat experience? _____

What did you learn about your faith or about yourself? _____

Is there anything that Jesus said or did that relates to your experience? _____

If this retreat was not attended with Faith Formation Staff, please submit proof of attendance with this form.

Confirmation Student/ Sponsor Meetings

Confirmation Student Name:

Sponsors for Confirmation stem from an ancient tradition when baptisms were done as adults. The idea was that a member of the community could vouch for the candidate's Christian attitude and desire for the Sacrament in front of the entire community. Today, sponsors are just as important. They continue to be guides on the journey towards the Sacrament, and they are models for candidates. The sponsor-candidate relationship is unique because it allows for comfortable talks about religion and faith in a society where such discussions are rare.

The purpose of this exercise is to guide that relationship and build that trust. Please use the following meeting guides for each of your meetings. They are not the end-all of conversations, and in fact should only get the ball rolling. Do not be surprised or hesitant if the conversation shifts away from the original topic. The idea is to build relationship, not stifle conversation.

Each discussion should take roughly 45 minutes to an hour. Some conversations may take more than an hour, others may feel drawn out at 45 minutes. As a candidate for the Sacrament, take a little time after the conversation to reflect on the discussion and then fill in the journal questions. More than anything else, enjoy these conversations. Enjoy the discussions with one another. The sponsor-candidate relationship is unique and has the potential to be wonderful. But, like all relationships, it needs time and energy devoted to helping it grow.

AFTER we have received your Sponsor's form, , you may start scheduling/meeting with them to complete these meetings. Your sponsor will have also received copies of these in the mail or via email.

Sponsor Meeting #1: Interviewing Your Sponsor

Now that you have chosen your sponsor, it is time to spend a little more time with him/her to really get to know more about his/her faith journey. After all, the life-long role of your sponsor is to walk with you and support you on your own faith journey! You may find that you already know a lot or that there is a lot that you can learn!

Although you will be asking your sponsor questions in the format of an interview, your meeting should really be a discussion, with you adding your own insights and thoughts to the conversation. **AND YOU NEED TO INVITE YOUR SPONSOR TO ASK YOU SOME QUESTIONS TOO!** (Your sponsor can ask you questions from the list on the next page or he/she can ask some of his/her own.) You are also welcome to ask your sponsor a question that is not included in the list! The questions are there to guide your discussion. You do not need to get through all of the questions, but feel free to do so!

- Start your meeting by praying together!
- At the end of your meeting, write your name and the date at the last page of this packet. Write your sponsor's name and then have your sponsor sign it.
- You will need to write short answers to the reflection questions on page 3 sometime after meeting with your sponsor (NOT while you are meeting with your sponsor).

Twenty Questions to Ask Your Confirmation Sponsor

Date Sponsor Meeting #1 Occurred: _____ / _____ / _____

1. At what age did you get Confirmed?
2. What do you remember about getting Confirmed?
3. What did you like about Confirmation and what did you not understand?
4. How has the Holy Spirit played a role in your life?
5. Since getting Confirmed what has been your most influential faith moment?
6. When did you get baptized? Were you a baby or did you go through RCIA/OCIA?
7. How did you first learn about what it means to be Catholic?
8. What does it mean to be Catholic for you?
9. How has the Catholic faith strengthened and nourished you?
10. How has your appreciation of the Mass changed for you over your life?
11. Was there a time when you did not like going to Mass? Do you like going to Mass now? And Why?
12. What does "forgiveness" mean to you? How does this understanding of forgiveness help you with the Sacrament of Reconciliation?
13. What has been your experience of the Sacrament of Reconciliation? Has it been a rewarding experience for you?
14. Do you have a favorite place and time to pray? Describe a time when it was challenging to pray and a time when you really felt God's presence.
15. In what ways have being Christian shaped your life?
16. Describe a time when you felt really close to God.
17. Who has been a good role model for you? How has this person taught you or shown you what it means to be Catholic? How has this person deepened your faith?
18. In what areas would you like to see growth in your Catholic faith?
19. What is your favorite Scripture passage, verse or story? Why?

20. What advice would you give to a current Confirmandee in becoming an adult in the Catholic faith?

21. What is the greatest challenge of being Catholic? What is the best thing about being Catholic?

Don't forget to ask any of your own questions!

AND REMEMBER- Your sponsor should ask you a few too!

Holy Family Area Sponsor Meeting Form #1

– Please turn into your FF Coordinator once you've finished this meeting–

Confirmation Candidate's Full

Name: _____

Date Sponsor Meeting #1 Occurred: ____/____/____

Sponsor's Name: _____

Sponsor's Signature: _____

* If the interview took place by phone or email, parent may sign for sponsor.

DIRECTIONS: Sometime after meeting with your sponsor, take a few minutes to reflect on your discussion and write brief answers to questions 1 and 2. Please take the time to answer question 3, but you do not need to write anything!

1. What was one thing that you learned about your sponsor during your meetings?

2. Write about one story or experience that your sponsor shared that you felt showed that he/she was truly strengthened by the Holy Spirit through Confirmation to live a life of holiness.

Sponsor Meeting #2: Attend Mass with your sponsor

Date Sponsor Meeting #2 Occurred: ____/____/____

1. Go to Mass together and then meet afterwards for breakfast or lunch.
2. Discuss the homily.
3. Discuss the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and the gift you feel you need the most.
 - a. Wisdom, Understanding, Knowledge, Counsel, Courage, Piety, Fear of the Lord

Holy Family Area Sponsor Meeting Form #2

– Please turn into your FF Coordinator once you’ve finished all meetings–

Confirmation Candidate’s Full

Name: _____

Date Sponsor Meeting #2 Occurred: ____/____/____

Sponsor’s Name: _____

Sponsor’s Signature: _____

* If the interview took place by phone or email, parent may sign for sponsor.

DIRECTIONS: Sometime after meeting with your sponsor, take a few minutes to reflect on your discussion and write brief answers to questions 1 and 2. Please take the time to answer question 3, but you do not need to write anything!

1. What was one thing that you learned about your sponsor during this meeting?

2. Tell us about your experience at Mass with your sponsor and/or why the Mass has made a difference in the life of your sponsor.

Sponsor Meeting #3: Discussion with your Sponsor

1. Read together Matthew 13:44-50. Is your relationship with God like a buried treasure? How? Is it like a fine pearl that you have yet to discover?
2. Do you ever question God's existence? When?
3. How do you experience God's presence in your life?
4. Read Philippians 2:1-12. How does God accomplish His plan of salvation? What is so significant about Jesus Christ? What did he do for us and our eternal salvation?
5. Why did we need to be "saved"? What does God save us from?
6. Name some of the principle events in the History of Salvation? (For example: Noah & the Flood, Abraham & Isaac, the Kingdom of David, etc). How do we see these events fulfilled in Jesus?
7. How do we fit into God's plan for the world today? How do we share in the salvation won for us by Jesus Christ?
8. Discuss your saint name, why you chose this saint and what traits are inspirational to you.

Holy Family Area Sponsor Meeting Form #3

– Please turn into your FF Coordinator once you've finished all meetings–

Confirmation Candidate's Full

Name: _____

Date Sponsor Meeting #3 Occurred: ____/____/____

Sponsor's Name: _____

Sponsor's Signature: _____

* If the interview took place by phone or email, parent may sign for sponsor.

DIRECTIONS: Sometime after meeting with your sponsor, take a few minutes to reflect on your discussion and write brief answers to questions 1 and 2.

1. What was one thing that you learned about your sponsor during this meeting?

2. What did you learn about Salvation today that you didn't know before? Where do you fit in with God's plan of Salvation?

Sponsor Meeting #4: Complete some act of service together

1. Complete some act of service for someone together OR
2. Volunteer at a nursing home or at church together OR
3. Watch a Christian movie together OR
4. Attend a Reconciliation Service together, and then get ice cream!

Holy Family Area Sponsor Meeting Form #4

– Please turn into your FF Coordinator once you've finished this meeting–

Confirmation Candidate's Full

Name: _____

Date Sponsor Meeting #4 Occurred: ____/____/____

Sponsor's Name: _____

Sponsor's Signature: _____

* If the interview took place by phone or email, parent may sign for sponsor.

DIRECTIONS: Sometime after meeting with your sponsor, take a few minutes to reflect on your discussion and write brief answers to questions 1 and 2. Please take the time to answer question 3, but you do not need to write anything!

1. What was one thing that you learned about your sponsor during this meeting?

2. Describe the service or activity that you completed with your sponsor and how you felt about it before, during and after.

3. Did you make a good choice of who you asked to serve as your Confirmation sponsor? If you are not sure if you did, pray about it, talk to your parents, and feel free to talk to any of the catechists about your decision and where to go from here.

 (no need to write anything here, just
pray/discern)

Candidates name: _____

Saint Name (Unseen Mentor)

HOW TO GO ABOUT CHOOSING YOUR CONFIRMATION SAINT NAME

Candidates for confirmation are asked to choose a name in which they would like to be confirmed. A saint is someone who has gone before us marked with the sign of faith. They are a disciple of Christ who has lived a life of exemplary fidelity to the Lord, a life of heroic virtue. A patron saint provides us with a model of charity and we are assured of their prayers for us. (CCC 2156)

Choosing a Confirmation Name is more than just choosing a name; you are choosing a Saint to be a part of your Confirmation experience, to be your role model in faith from the great cloud of witnesses that surround us!

The point is not to randomly choose a saint just for the sake of having one, but to seek out the person whose life and experiences really speak to you. Give yourself the opportunity to listen in your search and pray that God will guide you to your Saint. One important note: the Saint that you choose must be an officially recognized Saint of the Church.

Sources to find information on saints are:

Catholic Forum Saints: <http://saints.sqpn.com>

If you are looking for more information on a particular Saint, this site has many, though for some the information is limited... www.catholic.org

For either of these sites, check on the "Saints" connection to get more information.

The object is to find a Saint that you want to walk with you on your spiritual journey, and then to get to know that Saint, as you would want to get to know any important friend in your life. Once it is clear to you who your Saint will be, ask that Saint to be your companion on your journey. Remember, we believe in the Communion of Saints, so ask your Saint to pray for you and to guide you.

The next step in your process is to let us know that you have chosen that Saint, and to reflect a little about what you have learned and why you chose the person you did. This should be 2-3 paragraphs, legibly written (see next page for more details).

Confirmation Saint Name

PLEASE type this information onto a separate document and either PRINT/hand deliver OR EMAIL to the FF office at: areaffoffice@holyfamilyarea.org

Candidate Name: _____
First Last

Saint's name (This WILL BE your confirmation name): _____

Saint is: Male Female Saint's birth date: _____

Saint's feast day: _____

Patron Saint of: _____

Please answer the following questions on a SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER, TYPED:

- 1) IN YOUR OWN WORDS, Please write 1-2 paragraphs about the saint you are selecting:

- 2) How did your saint live as a disciple of Christ?

- 3) What is one particular story in the life of your saint that illustrates what you most like about them?

- 4) Why do you feel a particular connection with the saint that you chose, and how will you try to imitate them in your own life?

DUE: January 1st, 2027

Name of Saints <i>(female italicized)</i>	Feast Date	Classification of the saint
Achilleus	May 12	with Nereus
<i>Agatha</i>	<i>February 5</i>	<i>martyr</i>
<i>Agnes</i>	<i>January 21</i>	<i>virgin and martyr</i>
Albert (the Great)	November 15	doctor of the Church
Aloysius Gonzaga	June 21	scholar, patron of youth
Alphonsus Marie Liguori	August 1	bishop, doctor
Ambrose	December 7	father of the Church, doctor
<i>Anastasia</i>	<i>December 25</i>	<i>martyr</i>
Andrew Dung Lac	November 24	priest, martyr
Andrew Kim Taegon	September 20	priest, martyr
Andrew	November 30	apostle, martyr
<i>Angela Merici</i>	<i>January 27</i>	<i>foundress of Ursulines, mystic</i>
<i>Anne</i>	<i>July 26</i>	<i>mother of Mary, patron of widows</i>
Anselm	April 21	bishop, doctor
Ansgar	February 3	missionary, archbishop
Anthony	January 17	hermit, monk
Anthony Mary Claret	October 24	founder of Claretians
Anthony of Padua	June 13	doctor
Apollinaris (of Hierpolis)	January 8	bishop, writer, apologist
Athanasius	May 2	bishop, doctor
Augustine (of Hippo)	August 28	doctor, Father of the Church
Barnabas	June 11	apostle, martyr
Bartholomew (Nathanael)	August 24	apostle, martyr
Basil the Great	January 2	bishop, doctor
Benedict	July 11	monastic founder
<i>Bernadette</i>	<i>April 16</i>	<i>had visions of the Lady of Lourdes - not in Roman Calendar</i>
Bernard (of Clairvaux)	August 20	abbot and doctor
Bernadine of Siena	May 20	preacher, missionary
Blaise	February 3	bishop, martyr, physician
Bonaventure	July 15	theologian, bishop, doctor
Boniface	June 5	bishop, missionary
Brendan	May 16	monastic founder, patron of sailors
<i>Bridget of Sweden</i>	<i>July 23</i>	<i>wife, foundress</i>
Bruno	October 6	priest, hermit
Cajetan	August 7	priest, founder
Callistus I	October 14	pope, martyr
<i>Catherine of Siena</i>	<i>April 29</i>	<i>doctor, mystic, papal adviser, patroness of the dying</i>
<i>Cecilia</i>	<i>November 22</i>	<i>virgin and martyr, patroness of music</i>
Charles Borromeo	November 4	bishop
Charles Lwanga	June 3	martyr of Uganda - with companions
Christopher	July 25	martyr, patron of travelers - not in Calendar

Name of Saints <i>(female italicized)</i>	Feast Date	Classification of the saint
<i>Clare</i>	<i>August 11</i>	<i>virgin, foundress, mystic</i>
<i>Clement I</i>	<i>November 23</i>	<i>pope, martyr</i>
<i>Clotilde</i>	<i>June 3</i>	<i>Queen of the Franks, converted her husband - not in Calendar</i>
Cornelius	September 16	pope - with Cyprian
Cyprian	September 16	pope - with Cornelius
Cosmas	September 26	martyr, with Damian
Cyril of Alexandria	June 27	bishop, doctor
Cyril of Jerusalem	March 18	doctor, bishop
Damasus I	December 11	pope
Denis	October 9	martyr - with companions
Dionysius		
Dominic	August 8	priest, founder of Order of Preachers
<i>Edith Stein</i>	<i>August 9</i>	<i>philosopher, writer, convert from Judaism - canonized 1998</i>
Eligius (Eloi)	December 1	bishop, founder, patron of metal smiths - not in Calendar
<i>Elizabeth</i>	<i>November 5</i>	<i>cousin of Mary, mother of John the Baptist</i>
<i>Elizabeth Ann Seton</i>	<i>January 4</i>	<i>religious</i>
<i>Elizabeth of Portugal</i>	<i>July 4</i>	<i>religious</i>
<i>Elizabeth of Hungary</i>	<i>November 17</i>	<i>religious</i>
Ephraem	June 9	doctor, deacon
Eusebius of Vercelli	August 2	bishop, martyr
Fabian	January 20	pope, martyr
<i>Felicity</i>	<i>March 7</i>	<i>martyr - with Perpetua</i>
Fidelis (of Sigmaringen)	April 24	priest and martyr
<i>Frances of Rome</i>	<i>March 9</i>	<i>religious, co-patroness of Benedictine Oblates</i>
Francis Xavier	December 3	priest, patron of foreign missions
Francis de Sales	January 24	bishop, doctor
Francis of Assisi	October 4	religious
Francis of Paola	April 2	hermit, patron of seafarers
Gabriel the Archangel	September 29	patron of modern telecommunications
<i>Genevieve (Genovfa)</i>	<i>January 3</i>	<i>religious - not in Roman Calendar</i>
George	April 23	martyr
<i>Gertrude (the Great)</i>	<i>November 16</i>	<i>virgin</i>
<i>Gianna Beretta Molla</i>		<i>wife, physician, died giving birth - canonized 2004</i>
Gregory the Great	September 3	pope, doctor
Gregory VII	September 3	pope
<i>Hedwig</i>	<i>October 16</i>	<i>religious, widow</i>
Henry	July 13	co-patron of the Benedictine Oblates
Hermano Pedro de San Jose' de Betancurt		physician, founder - canonized 2002

Name of Saints <i>(female italicized)</i>	Feast Date	Classification of the saint
Hilary (of Poitiers)	January 13	bishop, doctor
Hippolytus	August 13	priest and martyr - with Pontian
Ignatius (of Loyola)	July 31	priest, founder of the Jesuits
Ignatius (of Antioch)	October 17	bishop, martyr
Irenaeus	June 28	bishop, martyr
Isaac Jogues	October 19	priest and martyr
Isidore (the Farmer)	May 10	farmer, husband
Isidore (of Seville)	April 4	bishop and doctor
James the Greater	July 25	apostle
James the Lesser	May 3	apostle - with Philip
<i>Jane Frances de Chantal</i>	<i>August 18</i>	<i>religious, foundress</i>
Januarius	September 19	bishop, martyr
Jerome	September 30	priest and doctor
Jerome Emiliani	February 8	patron saint of orphanages and abandoned children
Joachim	July 26	father of Mary
<i>Joan of Arc (Jeanne La Pucelle)</i>	<i>May 30</i>	<i>not in Roman Calendar</i>
John	December 27	apostle, evangelist
John Baptist de la Salle	April 7	priest, educator, founder
John Bosco	January 31	priest, founder of the Salesians
John Cantius (Kanty)	May 31	priest, patron of Poland and Lithuania
John Chrysostom	September 13	bishop and doctor
John de Brebeuf	October 19	martyr - with companions
John Eudes	August 19	priest, founder of devotion to the Sacred Heart
John Fisher	June 22	bishop and martyr
John Leonardi	October 9	priest, founder
John the Baptist	June 24	precursor of the Messiah, martyr (August 29)
John Vianney	August 4	priest
Joseph	March 19	husband of Mary, patron of workers (May 1)
<i>Josephine Bakhita</i>	<i>February 8</i>	<i>religious, kidnapped and sold into slavery - canonized 2000</i>
Juan Diego	December 9	had visions of the Lady of Guadalupe - canonized 2002
Justin Martyr	June 1	martyr, philosopher, apologist
Jude (or Thaddeus)	October 28	apostle, patron of lost causes
<i>Katharine Drexel</i>	<i>March 3</i>	<i>religious, foundress of schools - canonized 2000</i>
Lawrence	August 10	deacon, martyr
Lawrence of Brindisi	July 21	priest, doctor
Lawrence Ruiz	September 29	martyr - with companions - canonized 1987
Leo the Great	November 10	pope, doctor
Louis Mary de Montfort	April 28	priest, devotion to Mary and the rosary
Louis Baba	August 25	martyr
<i>Lucy (of Syracuse)</i>	<i>December 13</i>	<i>virgin, martyr</i>

Name of Saints <i>(female italicized)</i>	Feast Date	Classification of the saint
Luke	October 18	apostle, evangelist, patron of doctors
Malachy O'More	November 3	abbot, bishop
Marcellin Joseph Benoit Champagnat	June 6	priest, founder of the Society of Mary - canonized 1999
Marcellinus	June 2	martyr - with Peter
<i>Margaret Mary Alacoque</i>	<i>October 16</i>	<i>virgin, martyr, leader of devotions to the Sacred Heart</i>
<i>Marguerite Bourgeoys</i>	<i>January 19</i>	<i>religious, foundress - canonized 1982</i>
<i>Margaret of Scotland</i>	<i>November 16</i>	<i>virgin, model of charity</i>
<i>Maria Josefa of the Heart of Jesus</i>	<i>March 20</i>	<i>religious, co-foundress - canonized 2000</i>
<i>Sancho de Guerra</i>		
<i>Maria Goretti</i>	<i>July 6</i>	<i>virgin, martyr</i>
<i>Marie Marguerite d'Youville</i>	<i>April 11</i>	<i>religious, foundress of Sisters of Charity - canonized 1990</i>
Mark	April 25	apostle, evangelist
<i>Martha</i>	<i>July 29</i>	sisters to Sts. Lazarus and Mary at Bethany, patroness of cooks
Martin de Porres	November 3	religious, founder of orphanage, ministered to slaves
Martin of Tours	November 11	bishop, founder
<i>Mary Faustina Kowalska</i>	<i>October 5</i>	<i>religious, visionary of the Divine Mercy - canonized 2000</i>
<i>Mary Magdalene</i>	<i>July 22</i>	<i>apostle to the apostles</i>
<i>Mary, Mother of God</i>	<i>January 1</i>	<i>Mother of Jesus - has many feast days</i>
Matthew, apostle	September 21	apostle, evangelist
Matthias, apostle	May 14	apostle (replaced Judas Iscariot)
Maximillian Maria Kolbe	August 14	priest, martyr, died in Nazi concentration camp
Methodius	February 14	bishop - with Cyril
Michael the Archangel	September 29	protector of the Chosen People - with Gabriel & Raphael
<i>Monica</i>	<i>August 27</i>	<i>widow, mother of St. Augustine</i>
Nereus	May 12	martyr - with Achilleus
Nicholas	December 6	bishop, patron of children
Norbert	June 6	bishop, founder
Pancras	May 12	martyr
Patrick	March 17	bishop, patron of Ireland
Paul	June 29	apostle, with Peter
Paul Miki	February 6	martyr - with companions
<i>Paola (Paula) Frassinetti</i>	<i>June 11</i>	<i>foundress - canonized 1984</i>
<i>Paula Montal Fornes De San Jose Calasanz</i>	<i>November 25</i>	<i>foundress of Daughters of Mary - canonized 1993</i>
Paulinus of Nola	June 22	bishop
<i>Perpetua</i>	<i>March 7</i>	<i>martyr - with Felicity and companions</i>
Peter	June 29	apostle, first pope - with Paul
Peter Damian	February 21	bishop, doctor
Philip	May 3	apostle - with James
Philip Neri	May 26	priest, missionary, founder
Pio da Pietrelcina	September 23	priest, devoted to prayer - canonized 2002

Name of Saints <i>(female italicized)</i>	Feast Date	Classification of the saint
Pius V	April 30	pope
Pius X	August 21	pope
Polycarp	February 23	bishops, martyr
Pontian	August 13	pope and martyr
Raymond of Penafort	January 7	priest
<i>Rita of Cascia</i>	<i>May 22</i>	<i>religious, patroness of hopeless causes</i>
Stanislaus	April 11	bishop, martyr, patron of Poland
Stephen	December 26	apostle, first martyr
Stephen of Hungary	August 16	married man, ruler
Sylvester I	December 31	pope
<i>Teresa of Jesus</i>	<i>October 15</i>	<i>virgin and doctor</i>
<i>Therese of Lisieux</i>	<i>October 1</i>	<i>religious, doctor, "the Little Flower" - canonized in 1997</i>
Thomas	July 3	apostle
Thomas Aquinas	January 28	priest and doctor
Thomas Becket	December 29	bishop and martyr
Thomas More	June 22	martyr, with John Fisher
Timothy	January 26	bishop - with Titus
Titus	January 26	bishop - with Timothy
Vincent	January 22	deacon, martyr
Vincent de Paul	September 27	priest, founder of Lazarist Fathers and Sisters of Charity
Vincent Ferrer	April 5	priest
Wenceslaus	September 28	martyr
Willibrord	November 7	bishop, missionary to Frisia (modern Netherlands) - not in Calendar
Zachary	November 5	father of John the Baptist (Zachariah)

OUTLINE: LETTER TO BISHOP AND PASTOR

WRITTEN BY CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE

Due: February-March 2027

Here is an outline for the formal letter that needs to be written to the Bishop and to the Pastor, requesting the Sacrament of Confirmation. It is to be addressed to both the Bishop and the pastor (Fr. John Hayes), and will be sent to the Bishop along with the letters of all the Candidates from our Area Faith Community.

DO NOT mail it to the Bishop at the Diocese

1. Address Letter to:
 - Dear Bishop Zielinski and Father Hayes
2. Introduction:
 - tell who you are, say you are writing *to request the Sacrament of Confirmation*
3. Personal Information:
 - tell a little about yourself, what you like to do, who is in your family, etc.
 - tell the Bishop about your faith life
4. Reason for Confirmation:
 - tell your reasons for wanting Confirmation; what it will do for you; how it will bring you into closer relationship with Jesus and the Holy Spirit
 - Please DO NOT say 'I will become an Adult in the church'. This sacrament is your 'final Sacrament of Initiation' or 'becoming a fully initiated Catholic'.
 - tell what you have done to prepare for it
5. Future:
 - Share what your MISSION will be. In other words, how will you be involved in the Church and other areas of service - then list ministries
 - include information about your Saint, _____, and why you chose him/her
(Saint's name)
6. Closing:
 - Thank Bishop Zielinski for the time he took to read your letter
 - use SINCERELY or another salutation, leave 3 spaces, then type your full name

If you would like the FF office to review/edit your letter before submitting, please reach out to us! We are happy to help!

- Sign your letter in INK between the salutation and your typed name!!

All letters should be in business format and typed on white paper (if you want to use a computer to type it and don't have access to one, let the Parish Coordinator know, we'll let you do it at the office). You only need to type and sign one.

See other side for SAMPLE

(Date)

Most Reverend Chad Zielinski
Bishop of the Diocese of New Ulm
1421 6th Street North
New Ulm, MN. 56073

Dear Bishop Zielinski and Father Hayes:

In the first paragraph, include your introduction information and request this Sacrament. (Try to sound friendly and conversational, but be sure to sound polished.)

In the second paragraph, include some personal information... (family information, hobbies, interests, activities, extra curriculars, etc.)

In the third paragraph, include your reasons for requesting the Sacrament of Confirmation. Here you should tell why you want to be Confirmed and especially show that you know what you are asking for in this Sacrament. Of special importance would be to mention the graces that the Sacrament confers. (You might want to refer to the YouCat #203-207, sections on Confirmation and the Sacraments in general, as a help/refreshers...)

In the fourth paragraph, you will include information about your **Saint name** and what personal connection you find with this particular Saint (perhaps what you wish to emulate in your own life, or something that you admire, etc). You will also include two sentences about your **MISSION**... What you plan to do as a Confirmed Catholic – immediate and/or long-term.

End your letter with a paragraph which thanks the Bishop for taking the time to read your letter.

Respectfully,

(Sign your name in ink here)

Type your name

SPECIFICS:

- *Your letter should be about one page in length using 1-inch margins and 12-point type.
- *Single space the paragraphs of the letter
- *Be sure to read your letter out loud to someone and use spell check. Please save the letter on your computer so you can redo it if needed.

Confirmation Exam & Interview

WHO ARE THE 3 PERSONS OF THE TRINITY?

God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit

JOYFUL MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY *(Need to recite them in their correct order)*

1. The Annunciation of the Angel Gabriel
2. The Visitation of Elizabeth
3. The Birth of Our Lord Jesus
4. The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple
5. Finding Jesus in the Temple

SORROWFUL MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY *(Need to recite them in their correct order)*

1. The Agony in the Garden
2. The Scourging at the Pillar
3. The Crowning of Thorns
4. The Carrying of the Cross
5. The Crucifixion

LUMINOUS MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY *(Need to recite them in their correct order)*

1. The Baptism in the Jordan
2. The Wedding at Cana
3. Proclamation of the Kingdom
4. The Transfiguration
5. The Institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper

GLORIOUS MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY *(Need to recite them in their correct order)*

1. The Resurrection
2. The Ascension
3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles
4. The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
5. The Crowning of Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth

7 CAPITAL SINS

<i>Sloth</i>	<i>Envy</i>	<i>Gluttony</i>	<i>Lust</i>
<i>Greed</i>	<i>Anger</i>	<i>Pride</i>	

6 PRECEPTS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

1. You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation.
2. You shall confess your sins to a priest at least once a year.
3. You shall humbly receive your Creator in Holy Communion at least during the Easter season.
4. You shall observe the prescribed days of fasting and abstinence.
5. The faithful also have the duty of providing for the material needs of the Church, each according to their abilities.
6. To obey the laws of the Church concerning Matrimony.

7 SACRAMENTS

Baptism
Confession/Reconciliation
Holy Orders

Confirmation
Anointing of the Sick

Eucharist
Matrimony

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A MORTAL SIN AND A VENIAL SIN?

For a sin to be mortal, it must be ALL 3 of the following: 1. be a serious sin, 2. you knew that it was a serious sin, and 3. you freely chose to do it.

A venial sin hurts your relationship with God, whereas a mortal sin is your choosing to turn away from God. cf. 1 John 5:17

THE BEATITUDES

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall possess the earth.

Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for justice, for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.

Blessed are they who suffer persecution for justice' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

Counsel the doubtful.

Instruct the ignorant.

Admonish the sinner.

Comfort the sorrowful.

Forgive injuries.

Bear wrongs patiently.

Pray for the living and the dead.

CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

Feed the hungry.

Give drink to the thirsty.

Shelter the homeless.

Clothe the naked.

Visit the sick.

Visit the imprisoned.

Bury the dead.

Give alms to the poor.

7 GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Wisdom
Knowledge
Fear of the Lord/Awe and Wonder

Understanding
Courage

Counsel
Piety/Reverence

TWO GREATEST COMMANDMENTS

1. Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with thy whole heart, and with thy whole soul, and with thy whole mind, and with thy whole strength;
2. Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

Must be able to recite the following:

HAIL MARY

OUR FATHER

GLORY BE

ACT OF CONTRITION (*this one or another memorized version*)

O, my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended You, and I detest all my sins, because of your just punishments, but most of all because they offend You, my God, Who are all-good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Your grace, to sin no more and to avoid the near occasion of sin. Amen.

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

TWO GREATEST COMMANDMENTS

1. Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with thy whole heart, and with thy whole soul, and with thy whole mind, and with thy whole strength;
2. Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

Oral Interview Questions:

Who is Jesus Christ? (*2nd person of the Trinity, fully God and fully man, born to Mary in Bethlehem, worked many miracles, taught us who God is and how we are to live, was crucified by Pontius Pilate 33 AD, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of God the Father*)

Why is He important? (*Because He is the savior—He is THEE only way to Heaven. He died for our sins and opened up the gates of Heaven for us. It's now up to us as to whether we will accept this invitation to Heaven or not.*)

What prayer did He teach us? (*Our Father*)

Who founded the Catholic Church? (*Jesus Christ*)

Where in the Bible did Jesus make Peter the 1st Pope? (Matthew 16:18-19, “*You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.*”

How is the Catholic Church apostolic? *(its teachings are completely consistent with that of the apostles, AND it has valid Orders going all the way back to the apostles themselves—Fr. Paul was ordained by a bishop, who was ordained by a bishop, who was ordained by a bishop, who was ordained by a bishop, who was ordained by a bishop, who was ordained by a bishop, etc, etc, who was ordained by one of the apostles themselves, who were ordained by Jesus Christ, Himself !)*

What is the goal of life? Where do you hope to go when you die? Tell me about the basic differences between Heaven, Hell, and Purgatory. (**Heaven** is the endless moment of love. Nothing more separates us from God, whom our soul loves and has sought our whole life long. **Hell** is the condition of everlasting separation from God, the absolute absence of love. **Purgatory or the Final Purification** – someone who dies in God's grace (and therefore at peace with God and men), but who still needs purification before he can see God face to face.

What are examples of “serious sins”, that is, sins that could be mortal sins? *(Murder, abortion, euthanasia (physician-assisted suicide), adultery, sex outside of marriage, contraception, sterilization, masturbation, pornography, missing Sunday Mass, getting drunk or high, etc.)*

How can you be forgiven of a venial sin? *(simply by asking for God's forgiveness by praying the Our Father; or an Act of Contrition, or by calling it to mind at the beginning of each Mass)*

What do you need to do to be forgiven of a mortal sin? *(To be sorry for it and to confess it to a priest and receive absolution).*

What happens if you die with a mortal sin on your soul that you have not Confessed or repented of?
(You choose to be eternally separated from God for all eternity; they would be choosing to go to Hell).

If a person has committed a mortal sin, but hasn't gone to Confession yet, can they still receive Holy Communion? *(No. They would be “eating and drinking condemnation upon themselves” cf. 1 Cor 11:27).*

What should they do at Mass instead? *(They could either stay in their pew and make a spiritual communion, or they could cross their arms over their chest and ask for a blessing instead of Holy Communion).*

How do we especially receive God's grace? *(Prayer and the Sacraments)*

What is a sacrament? *(An outward sign instituted by Christ to give us grace)*

Please talk about the meaning of Christianity to you—Is it easy to be a Christian?

-What makes it difficult? (“Love your enemies,” etc.)

-How do our values differ from that of the world?