

Bishop Letter Guidelines

Our Lady of Guadalupe Church – Faith Formation Office

Confirmation is the gift of fuller participation in the Church through the power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit fills us with gifts we need to live our Christian faith. The sacrament of Confirmation enables us to live our faith as true active followers of Jesus. We are to be responsible witnesses to the Good News of Jesus today.

In your letter:

- 1) Address your letter: **Your Excellency**
- 2) Reflect on everything you have gone through during your Confirmation process so far. How have you grown? What have you learned? How has your relationship with Christ changed? Share some of these thoughts with the Bishop.
- 3) Express your desire to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and explain why **you** are choosing to receive this sacrament.
- 4) Write about your saint and why you have chosen him/her.
- 5) Share about some of the service that you have done throughout your confirmation process.
- 6) Share how you intend to fully, actively, and consciously participate in your Catholic faith after making your confirmation.
- 7) Share your reflection on the Gospel that will be used for your Confirmation Ceremony (Once we receive a Confirmation date, we will give the Gospel for the day).
- 8) Your letter to the Bishop **MUST BE TYPED and DOUBLE SPACED.**
- 9) The letter should be a **MAXIMUM** of one full page.
- 10) Print and Sign your name at the end of the letter.
- 11) This letter is **DUE** no later than **the 1st class in March**

*****Sample Bishop Letter*****

Your Excellency,

It is very important to write a very well put together letter to the Bishop. The Bishop does take his time to read each and every letter. That is why it is important that it be EXACTLY one page, no more no less. This means please try your best to not go into the second page with even a few lines, but also make sure to not be too short either. The Bishop truly wants to know how the experience was for you and what you learned and gained from this Confirmation experience. Not just the classes, but the service you did, the other events you attended, and especially the retreats. Please remember to especially discuss what saint you chose for your saint name and why you chose that saint. It would also be nice to share with the Bishop a bit about what you plan to do as a Confirmed Catholic to continue to live out your faith. Remember Confirmation is not a graduation. It is not meant to be a ceremony where we do not see you again once you get confirmed. It is meant to be one milestone in your faith journey. With your Confirmation, you are sealed with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and as such are a Disciple of Jesus and therefore are to follow Jesus' mission. Jesus calls all of us to love and to serve. Is there any service you did during Confirmation that sparked your interest that you would want to continue doing it? Also, share with the Bishop a bit about why you feel you are ready and wish to receive the sacrament. Lastly, it is very important to share with the Bishop a couple of sentences regarding your reflection on the Gospel passage that will be used during your Confirmation Ceremony. The Gospel will be given to you once we find out the Confirmation date.

Sincerely,

Raymond Hernandez