Dear Confirmation candidates,

Each year, the bishops of Baltimore write letters to the candidates upon whom they will be conferring the sacrament of Confirmation – that’s you! This year, Bishop Parker will be celebrating our Mass at Ascension, but as he was originally scheduled to celebrate both Masses, he wrote a letter to all of CCASTA’s candidates. He requests that you write one back to him so that he has an opportunity to get to know you all. He does actually read the letters, and he often remembers the things you write!

Everyone being confirmed is required to write a letter to the bishop.

My office collects all of the letters and mails them to the bishop’s office along with other important paperwork, so please make sure that you turn these in on time. They are due no later than Sunday, February 23rd (for the Sunday class) or Tuesday, February 25th (for the Tuesday class). These can be turned in during class or via email (shannon@ccasta.org), or they can be dropped off either at the Ascension campus office or at the Neumann House. This is an opportunity for you to introduce yourself and to tell your story! Bishop Parker asks you a couple of questions, but you can also write anything else that comes to mind regarding your faith journey and your upcoming Confirmation.

(Important note: Mass assignments will be given soon. Half of the class will be confirmed at St. Augustine’s, and Bishop Rozanski from the Diocese of Springfield will be celebrating this Mass. If you find out that you are assigned to the Mass at St. Augustine’s, you can still write your letter answering all of Bishop Parker’s questions, but please address it to Bishop Rozanski.)

Here are a few tips regarding this letter:

• Typed and printed is preferred, but it can be handwritten if your handwriting is very neat.
• The formal way to address a Catholic bishop is to say “Your Excellency, Bishop _____,” but it’s also perfectly okay to just write “Dear Bishop _____.”
• Make sure you sign the letter with your first and last name.
• It doesn’t need to be long (one typed page is fine enough), but we do expect more thought and effort than just a couple of sentences.
• Please have someone proofread your letter before you hand it in

Peace and all good,

Shannon O’Toole