

Guide for Bishop's Letter

Letters should be addressed to: Most Reverend Peter J Byrne (Dear Bishop Byrne)

DO NOT Scan or email us letters we need the PHYSICAL LETTER- attach them to the Sponsor Certificate with a paper clip and send them in together. They do not need to be in an envelope.

Make sure they are in INK. (typed or neatly hand-written) and SIGNED with your FULL NAME

Use this information to reflect on before writing your letter:

- ❖ Requesting to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation as a Catholic.
- ❖ Sharing why you desire to be confirmed as a Catholic?
- ❖ Sharing what is it that you have to share with the Church (in the way of gifts and talents)?
- ❖ Sharing your commitment to living your life as a Catholic and growing in your knowledge and faith.
- ❖ **Don't forget some autobiographical information and some words of welcome to Bishop Byrne.**
- ❖ **Please tell Bishop Byrne about the type of service to which you believe God has called you and how you intend to continue your faith formation after you celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation.** (A Sacrament celebrating your full initiation into the Catholic faith)
- ❖ Please sign the letter with your FULL NAME
- ❖ DO Not put the letter in an envelope. They are mailed flat together with the other candidates.

During the Confirmation rite, the following prayer is said by the Bishop as the church community prays for the people about to be anointed. This ritual is called "the laying on of hands". It says so much about the sacrament, our relationship with God and our place in the church and the world. You might want to tell Bishop Byrne about what being a "chosen son or daughter" means to you, or which gift of God's Holy Spirit means the most to you.

"Dear friends, in Baptism, God, our Father, gave the new birth of eternal life to his chosen sons and daughters. Let us pray to Our Father that he will pour out the Holy Spirit to strengthen his sons and daughters with his gifts and anoint them to be more like Christ the Son of God."

(In silence, we pray.)

"All powerful God, Father of our Lord, Jesus Christ, by water and the Holy Spirit you freed your sons and daughters from sin and gave them new life.

Send your Holy Spirit upon them to be their Helper and Guide. Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgement and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence. Fill them with the spirit of wonder and awe in your presence. We ask this through Christ, our Lord."

The National Catechetical Directory says the following about Confirmation:

As a Sacrament of Initiation, Confirmation is intimately related to Baptism and the Eucharist. Confirmation renews and strengthens the Christian's baptismal call to bear witness to Christ before the world and work eagerly for the building up of His body.

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