

Letter to the Bishop

Each Confirmation candidate must type a letter to Bishop Hoepfner requesting reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation. This letter must explain why you believe that you are ready to be confirmed and what being a Catholic means to you.

Please spend some time in prayerful reflection before you type your letter. It is a testimony to where you are in your faith journey and explains why now is the time for you to complete this step in your journey. Yes, the Bishop reads every letter and may ask you about your letter at Confirmation.

Below are sample letters to help you type your letter to the Bishop.

Please use your own words.

Bring Letter to the Bishop to your Final Interview

SAMPLE LETTER GUIDELINE

Today's Date

Dear Bishop Hoepfner,

Introductory paragraph:

(Introduce yourself to the Bishop - name, grade, school, interests, etc.)

Example: *I, (name), a member of St. Philip's Parish, am currently participating in the Confirmation program. I am in 11th grade at Bemidji High School. I enjoy skiing and reading.*

Paragraph #1:

(Request to be confirmed and explain why you want to be confirmed. Possibly use examples from what you learned and experienced in your Faith Formation classes, service projects, retreats/missions, meetings with your sponsor.)

Example: *I am requesting to be confirmed in the Catholic faith because . . .*

Paragraph #2:

(State your Confirmation Saint/Blessed and list reasons for choosing your saint, more than St. Catherine of Bologna, who is the Patroness of Artists, because I want to be an artist. Use your saint report as a guide.)

Example: *I have chosen Saint/Blessed (Name) as my Confirmation Saint. I have chosen this Saint because....*

Paragraph #3:

(Describe how you plan to continue participating in the Church after Confirmation: through service, ministries in the Church, continued growth in faith. How do you plan to live the Catholic way of life?)

Example: *In order to continue growing in the Catholic Faith, I plan to . . .*

End the letter with:

Example: *Thank you for considering me for the Sacrament of Confirmation.*

Example: *Sincerely, Respectfully yours, God Bless (or something else)*

Print your letter

Sign your name

Print your name under your signature

Bring your Letter to the Bishop to your Final Interview

SAMPLE LETTER

Today's date

Dear Bishop Hoepfner:

I, John Smith, a member of St. Philip's Church, in Bemidji, am currently participating in Religious Formation class which is preparing me to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. I am in 11th grade at Bemidji High School. I enjoy skiing and reading.

I am requesting to be confirmed in the Catholic faith because it will allow me to be closer to God. My preparation for Confirmation is another step that I have taken on my faith journey. There were times when I felt I had better things to do than go to Religious Formation but once I was at class I learned a lot about the Catholic faith and my relationship with Jesus Christ has been deepened.

The Confirmation Saint that I have chosen is St. Augustine of Hippo. I have chosen Saint Augustine because like Saint Augustine, there were times when I had doubts of what my faith was about. But ever since I've been preparing for my Confirmation, my eyes have opened and I no longer believe because I've been told to believe. I've felt God with me. I've noticed everything that God does for me.

After Confirmation I'm planning on becoming a lector at Church and helping with Vacation Bible School. I will read and reflect upon the Sunday readings before Sunday Mass to better understand the readings and grow in faith.

Thank you for considering me for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Sincerely,

Confirmation Candidate's Signature

Print Confirmation Candidate's name under signature