**Letter to the Bishop**

Bishop Bradley of the Diocese of Kalamazoo requires that all students preparing to be confirmed personally write to him, requesting Confirmation, and explaining why they would like to be Confirmed. These letters can be typed or hand written, but if hand written they must be written carefully enough to be legible.

The following preparation notes and outline will help you creating your letter to the Bishop.

# Preparation

On note cards, write your answers to the following questions:

Card 1: What were some of the things you studied about in your Confirmation preparation classes? What is something new you have learned about your faith?

Card 2: What did you do for service projects? Describe what you did and what you gained from the experience.

Card 3: What saint’s name did you pick for your Confirmation name? Tell something about the saint and why you chose that name.

Card 4: Who is your sponsor. Describe how you know him/her, how they live out their Catholic faith and why you chose him/her as your sponsor?

Card 5: What are some things you are involved in? (Hobbies, school activities, sports, etc.)

Card 6: What are some ways that your family lives out its Catholic faith? (Ex. Praying together before meals, going to Mass together, celebrating Christmas and Easter, praying the rosary together, etc.)

Card 7: What are some ways that you can share your faith with your family, friends and classmates?

Card 8: How do you plan to live out your Catholic faith once you are Confirmed? (Ex. Praying, being a lector, going to church, etc.)

Card 9: Why do you want to be Confirmed? [Note: Give this some serious thought and don’t just write down some rote answer like, “*Because I want to be an adult in the church*” (After all, just by aging – you’ll become an adult!) There are 100s of Christian religions out there. The Bishop wants to know what makes you want to be Catholic?]

Card 10: What questions do you have for the Bishop?

Once you have completed these cards, you’re ready to begin writing your letter.

# Outline for your letter

Each letter should begin as follows:

Most Reverend Bishop Bradley,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am \_\_ years old and I attend \_\_\_\_ Church. I am writing this letter to request Confirmation.

Each letter should end as follows:

I am looking forward to being Confirmed because \_\_\_. After I am Confirmed, I hope to live out my faith by \_\_\_\_. [Then:

* Ask him any questions you may have
* Ask him to pray for you and/or tell him you’ll pray for him.
* Thank him for reading your letter.
* Sign your name.]

For the middle part of the letter, if you need ideas, try one of these versions.

*Version A*: To prepare for my Confirmation I have been studying\_\_\_\_\_. One thing new I learned was \_\_\_\_. I have also been doing service projects, such as \_\_\_\_\_. Something I learned from this was \_\_\_\_.

*Version B*: I am in \_\_\_ grade at \_\_\_ school. There, I am active in \_\_\_\_\_\_. In preparation for Confirmation, I have chosen the saint’s name, \_\_\_\_\_\_, because \_\_\_\_\_\_. I have also chosen \_\_\_\_ to be my sponsor because \_\_\_\_\_.

*Version C*: I have been Catholic since \_\_\_\_\_\_. My family lives out its Catholic faith by \_\_\_\_\_. I have found a good way to share my faith with others is \_\_\_\_\_\_.

*Version D*: Any combination of the above examples.

Suggestions:

* Write a rough draft of your letter first. Then have your parent, sponsor, teacher or a friend read through it.
* Correct any spelling or grammatical errors. If you are not sure, ask.
* If you chose to hand write your letter, be sure to write clearly – so that the bishop can read it.
* If you type your letter, make sure you use an easy to read typeface and hand-sign your signature.
* You may also want to enclose a picture (of you, you and your family or you and your sponsor)
* When you have completed the final draft of your letter, turn it into Andy Boyd in class or to his home. (514 S. Jefferson or sturgisboyds@chartermi.net)