

## LETTER TO THE PASTOR REQUESTING CONFIRMATION

DUE: November 29, 2022

GIVE YOUR LETTER TO: Mrs. Acevedo, Director of Religious Education

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Your decision to be confirmed is an important one. At Baptism, your parents made the choice to raise you as a member of the Catholic Church. Over the past two years, though, you have been challenged with a decision: will *you* continue to live as a Catholic? With the assistance of information, practice, and reflection, you have chosen freely to follow Jesus and live his Gospel message in the world. I want you to know that the staff and volunteers of Holy Family Catholic Church's Religious Education Program are *thrilled* that you have elected to be confirmed.

Because the pastor of each parish is called on by the bishop during the actual rite of Confirmation to affirm that each of the Candidates *truly desires* to be confirmed and has prepared well for the Sacrament, Father Tri needs to know that you truly desire to be confirmed and that you have prepared well. He needs to know your reasons for wanting to be confirmed in order to better determine your readiness for Confirmation and recommendation to Bishop Barbarito.

**To help Father Tri, you will write a letter to him that explains your reasons for wanting to be confirmed. You will also outline ways in which you intend to live as a confirmed Catholic who is fully initiated into the Body of Christ and the Holy Family parish community.**

To help you get started, I have given you a list of topics to think about and examples of what this letter should look like. Keep in mind, however, that you must explain *in your own words* and *with your own examples* why you want to be confirmed, why you feel you are ready to be confirmed, how you live your life following Christ, and how you practice your faith as a Catholic.

Here are some things you should know:

1. Although the letter is addressed to Father Tri (who will read it), I will also read your letter. I may also share it with the Confirmation catechists and Religious Education Program staff.
2. You can trust us with your thoughts. We are here to support you. There is no way to fail, but there might be a better way to explain. Everyone will receive feedback.
3. Talk it out with your sponsor and anyone else you want to involve. They'll help you brainstorm. Plus, they will feel so happy for you when you share your thoughts and motivation with them! Good news is meant to be shared and celebrated.
4. You can handwrite your letter or you can type it, but take pride in it. Be neat. Look for mistakes and fix them. Your writing reflects you.
5. You can use any font that is acceptable to use for an essay you write at school; Calibri and Times New Roman are the usual fonts, in size 10, 11, or 12.
6. In English/Language Arts class, you've learned about different reasons for writing. In this letter, you are writing to inform, you are writing to persuade, and you are giving examples to support your topic sentences.
7. Your letter should cover one whole side of one sheet of paper with 1" margins and using font specifications described in #5 above.

Congratulations again, to you Men and Women in Christ,

*Mrs. Acevedo*

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Remember:

The sign of a practicing Catholic is one who **prays often, worships** God,  
and believes in **what Christ taught**, as recorded in the Gospels and stated in the Creed.

The true follower of Christ **sacrifices** for and **serves** others, especially those in need.

**Paragraph 1:** Ask for the Sacrament of Confirmation and briefly tell why you want to be confirmed.

**Paragraphs 2+:** Explain **how you have prepared** for the sacrament and **how you have already lived** the Gospel message of Jesus in your daily life. This is when you want to prove that you are a Christian.

Choose a couple of these to write about:

- your celebration of the other sacraments
- your prayer life: describe it, how often, why, etc.
- your Mass attendance and your service during Mass: number of service hours earned so far this year and what you did to earn them
- your service to others in your home and community: number of service hours so far this year and what you did to earn them
- your favorite part of your Confirmation classes (a topic you covered, a retreat you attended, an assignment you completed, one set of service hours you performed, etc.)
- the part of the preparation process that was most helpful to you
- how a favorite prayer or Scripture passage/story inspires you or says something about the way you want to live your life: be specific by giving the title of the prayer or Scripture book, chapter, and verse

You must write about these:

- how/why you chose your saint name
- how/why you chose your sponsor

**Final Paragraph:** Tell **how you will continue** to carry out your life of service to God and others through the power of the Holy Spirit. Write about future ways you would like to be involved in the Church, in our parish, and in the Port St. Lucie community. Try to be as specific as possible: for example, use the information you learned from the Meyers-Brigg Assessment and tie it to your talents and dream career, or name a ministry that you want to join or continue working in.

**Closing:** Be sure to sign your letter in cursive using blue or black pen.

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Below is a letter written by a ninth-grade candidate. Notice how this candidate put thought and reverence into her letter. Do not copy this letter-- only use it as an example. Even if your ideas are similar, use your own words and examples to create the sentences and communicate the ideas.

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Dear Father Tri,

I am requesting the Sacrament of Confirmation. I want to receive the Holy Sacrament of Confirmation because I feel I have reached a point in my life where I want to give more of my time and talent back to those around me, rather than simply take from them. I greatly look forward to receiving this special and extraordinary gift.

I have been attending classes in the Religious Education Program since first grade. I was baptized at St. Christopher's in Hobe Sound, and I received my first Holy Communion here at Holy Family. During my preparation for Confirmation, I learned how to carefully choose a sponsor. I have asked my grandmother, Jackie Gomez, to present me to Bishop Barbarito on the day of my Confirmation as he anoints me with sacred chrism to seal my commitment to Jesus and His Church in this Sacrament. I have made this choice for a sponsor because I look up to her greatly. She is very active in her own parish and can lead me to further spirituality throughout my life. Every day, she performs one good deed and does not expect anything in return.

I also had the opportunity to explore some of the saints. The name by which I wish to be called at my Confirmation is "Clare". I have chosen this name because Saint Clare was a phenomenal person. She was founder of the order of nuns known as the "Poor Clares," was Italian, and knew St. Francis of Assisi. She saved her sisters and took a vow of absolute poverty.

My favorite part of my preparation was learning about morality and defending the faith. We spent some time reading the Acts of the Apostles. It was really interesting to see St. Peter changing from a complete coward who denied even knowing Jesus to a person who accepted the Holy Spirit and made a powerful speech that caused 3000 people to be baptized. I wonder what the Holy Spirit will help me do.

I attend Mass every week. I go to Confession twice a year. So far this year, I have logged 16 hours of service at Holy Mass. I serve as an usher at the 12 noon Mass. Last year, I tried out the Choir, but I had to quit because of some extra-curricular conflict with rehearsal. I have also logged 6 additional hours in parish ministry; I helped members of the Counsel of Catholic Women by moving tables and packing away tablecloths at their Fall Festival last November. This seemed like unimportant work when I signed up, but after doing it I realized that my work was service. I know that I helped these older women by doing work that they physically could not.

I believe that throughout my years of faith formation, I have learned so many things that have brought me so much help and joy. Now that I am of age, I want to choose to take my role as an adult in the Church. After this last sacrament of initiation, I will do my best to serve God and His Church and bring others to the Lord. I will stand up at school to defend what I believe if it is questioned. I will continue to be an usher at Mass. I hope you know that my request is sincere and will agree to it. Thank you very much for considering my request.

Sincerely,

*Susana Ruggiero*