

BISHOP LETTER GUIDELINES

Due Thursday, January 23, 2025

A letter to the Bishop offers a monumental moment for a young person to express why they desire this final Sacrament of initiation into the Catholic Church. This is a great opportunity for reflection on their faith journey.

The Bishop DOES take the time to read these letters and will base his homily at the Confirmation Mass on the content of these letters. Please don't view these as a homework assignment to rush through, but a chance to personally express to the leader of our local Church how you've grown closer to Christ in the last two years.

Above all, this Letter should be authentic and heartfelt. In addition to the contents of the outline below, please feel free to include more information on whatever you feel is most important.

Mandatory Guidelines:

1. This must be typed out. Handwritten letters, although heartfelt, cannot be accepted.
2. Font must be between sizes 10-12.
3. Length is important. **It must be SINGLE SPACED, at least four full paragraphs** (follow the outline below), but it CANNOT go far beyond one page.
4. Before you submit, **please proofread. It is recommended that you have your sponsor or parent proofread, too.** This letter is serious and therefore deserves great attention to detail. Letters where the word "God" is not capitalized or when important words like "Confirmation" or "Adoration" are misspelled are problematic.
5. Submitting work containing any content generated by artificial intelligence (AI) when not explicitly directed to do so by the instructor will be considered an act of academic dishonesty.
6. Email all completed letters to **bonifaceconfirmation7@gmail.com** no later than: **Thursday, January 23** so that it can be reviewed by our team. Letters that do not meet these requirements or lack necessary depth will need to be resubmitted. **No PDFs**, please send as Microsoft Word doc or Google doc to be able to be reviewed.

Bishop Letter Outline

Opening Salutation

Your Name and the Date
Your Saint Name
Most Reverend Timothy Freyer
Your Excellency,

Example from the Youth Director:

Nohemi Gutierrez
St. Maximilian Kolbe
Most Reverend Timothy Freyer
Your Excellency,

Paragraph 1: Introduction

- Introduce yourself
- Tell the Bishop why you are writing
 - You are asking to complete your Sacraments of initiation through the Sacrament of Confirmation and therefore will become a fully initiated Catholic.
- What does it mean to you to receive this Sacrament?

Paragraph 2: Sharing Your Spiritual Journey

You can write about ANY of the following points:

- Who was God at the beginning of this process and who is God to you now?
- Share about one or two of your most meaningful Confirmation experiences: retreat, time with your small group, classes, prayer experiences, service projects, etc. How did this event impact you?
- What has been a spiritual challenge that you have overcome in Confirmation? How did that happen?
- Who helped you grow in faith during these two years? Share about who they are and how they helped you.

Paragraph 3: Gospel Reflection

The Bishop has requested that all candidates for Confirmation write a reflection based on the specific Gospel (Luke 8:4-10a, 11b-15) that would be read at the Confirmation Mass. This is a chance to spiritually prepare for the Mass as well as reflect on the Scriptures. What we hope to have is **YOUR SPIRITUAL REFLECTIONS** on this very important teaching of Jesus to his Disciples.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke. With a large crowd gathering and people from every town finding their way to him, Jesus used this parable: 'A sower went out to sow his seed. As he sowed, some fell on the edge of the path and was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. Some seed fell on rock, and when it came up it withered away, having no moisture. Some seed fell amongst thorns and the thorns grew with it and choked it. And some seed fell into rich soil and grew and produced its crop a hundredfold.' Saying this he cried, 'Listen, anyone who has ears to hear!' His disciples asked him what this parable might mean, and he said, 'The seed is the word of God. Those on the edge of the path are people who have heard it, and then the devil comes and carries away the word from their hearts in case they should believe and be saved. Those on the rock are people who, when they first hear it, welcome the word with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of trial they give up. As for the part that fell into thorns, this is people who have heard, but as they go on their way they are choked by the worries and riches and pleasures of life and do not reach maturity. As for the part in the rich soil, this is people with a noble and generous heart who have heard the word and take it to themselves and yield a harvest through their perseverance.'

When you hear this passage, what does it mean to you? (Possible reflection points below)

- When you read this scripture passage, what are your thoughts on it?
- What spiritual message do YOU receive from this passage?
- What do you find comforting, challenging, beautiful, hopeful or difficult?

Paragraph 4: Conclusion

- Express why you have made the decision to become a fully initiated Catholic and receive this Sacrament.
- Share about your big hopes to grow further in the faith.
- How do you plan on being a disciple of Jesus in the future?
- End with a formal declaration of your desire to be Catholic and receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Closing:

Sincerely,

Your first name "Saint's first name" Your last name

Example from the Youth Minister:

Sincerely,

Nohemi "Maximilian" Gutierrez