

Letter to the Bishop

Part of our preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation includes writing a letter to the confirming bishop. Bishop Roger Gries is scheduled to confirm you.

You are asked to write a letter to Bishop Gries. In the letter, introduce yourself. You can include information about your family, your school and Saint Raphael Parish. Please include details about how you have been preparing for this Sacrament (Religion class, Spirit Nights, meetings with your sponsor, prayer). You can also tell him something about the service you have done and how you feel you have made a difference. You may also tell him the Confirmation name you have selected and perhaps some of the reasons why you chose it. Consider including how you are feeling about becoming a fully-initiated Catholic as well as how you plan to use your gifts and how you plan to continue to learn about your faith following your Confirmation.

As a gesture of thanksgiving for all that he does for our Diocese, it would be nice to end your letter by offering him a pledge of a prayer or an act of kindness that you will do for him in your time of preparation for Confirmation – for example, you could pray a specific prayer for him every day until your Confirmation or maybe you could include him in your special intentions each evening when you pray or during grace before every meal. You can also offer up acts of kindness towards other people for him.

It would also be appropriate at the very end of your letter to tell him that you are glad that he is coming to Saint Raphael Parish and that you are excited to be confirmed! Please feel free to use your own words! These are just suggestions!

This letter may be typed or hand-written. If you type it, you should still sign your name by hand in pen. **All letters are due no later than February 15th, 2012 (our last Spirit Night)**. However, they can be turned in to Amy at the Parish Office at any time!

If you'd like to write a formal letter, the inside address is:

**Most Reverend Roger W. Gries
1230 Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44108**

Just an Example of Bishop Letter Format

**Most Reverend Roger W. Gries
1230 Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44108**

Date letter is written

Dear Bishop Gries,

My name is (in this paragraph introduce yourself, your family, talk about your parish and your involvement in your parish, your school, and anything else that you think the bishop would like to know about you.)

In your second paragraph, write about how you have been preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and your feelings about receiving this sacrament. You can write about your essays, choosing a sponsor, choosing a name (and maybe why you chose the name you did). You can also tell him about things you have learned at the Spirit Nights, retreat, etc. and about what you have done with your sponsor. You can also write about a particular service project you participated in and how you felt you made a difference.

In another paragraph, you can write about how you plan to continue to grow in your faith AFTER Confirmation, how you will learn more, how you will become active in your parish community, how you will use your gifts to impact the world, how you will teach others about your faith. (Please BE SPECIFIC! Don't just write, "I promise to become active in my parish community", but think about what you really plan to do— for example, "I am excited to continue to serve my parish as an altar server and I look forward to participating in the Adopt-a-Family program every year.") Really think about how YOU will become involved!

In another paragraph, you can write about your offering of prayers for or acts of kindness done on behalf of the Bishop through. Let him know how grateful you are for his leadership of our diocese.

In your final paragraph, you can write about how you are looking forward to seeing him at Confirmation or that you are excited for him to confirm you on April 22nd.

**You can end your letter with:
Sincerely, OR
May God bless you, OR
Any other closing you wish.**

Sign you first and last name

Type your first and last name under your signature