

Santa Sophia Church
Spring Valley, California
Catechetical Ministry Office
(619) 463-6011

Sacrament of Confirmation
“Letter of Petition”

It is customary for a person in grade ten and above who has been preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation to write a “Letter of Petition” to the pastor requesting that he/she be recommended to the bishop for confirmation. Typically, this letter is written in the second year of formal preparation. In addition to being a formal request for the sacrament, this letter allows the candidate for Confirmation to:

- write about himself/herself and his/her family;
- present their understanding of the Sacrament as taught by the Church and demonstrate how they have been preparing for this sacrament; and
- explain what the reception of this sacrament means to him/her and how it will affect their future as a fully-initiated Catholic man or woman.

Yourself and your Family

- What is your name, age? Do you have any particular interests or hobbies?
- Write about your family (parents, brothers, sisters, etc).
- If in school, where are you currently enrolled and in what grade?
- If in high school, do you have any plans for college? If so, what are they?
- If you could select any career field for your future, what would it be and why?
- In regard to your Christian vocation, have you considered marriage, priesthood, or the religious life? Do you have a sense to which vocation God is calling you?
- What is the name of your parish and how have you been active in it?
- When do you first remember hearing about Jesus?
- Who are the important people in your spiritual life?
- What have been the important events or highlights in your spiritual life? How are you aware of the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life?
- Which verses from Sacred Scripture hold special meaning for you and why?

The Sacrament of Confirmation

- In your own words, briefly explain the sacrament of Confirmation as taught by the Church.
- What are your reasons for requesting to be confirmed by the bishop?
- Who have you chosen to be your sponsor and why? In what ways has this person helped you grow as a Catholic and encouraged you to practice/live your Catholic faith?
- How have you prepared to receive this sacrament? Please be thorough in your explanation.

(over)

Life Now and in the Future

Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist makes us fully-initiated members of the Body of Christ. As such, we are called to be true witnesses to the Lord and are obligated to spread and defend our faith in Christ Jesus by what we say and do.

- What place does the Eucharist have in your life as a Catholic Christian?
- How are you putting your Catholic faith into practice as you live life today?
- How do you think you will be putting your Catholic faith into practice in the future?

Please end your Petition with the words:

“Given all that I have written, I, (FIRST/LAST NAME), wish to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit who came upon the apostles at Pentecost and is given sacramentally in Confirmation.”

Following this statement, place your signature in blue or black ink and write the date.

Guidelines for Preparation

- Petitions must be typed, single spaced, have one-inch margins, and use the font Times New Roman, 12-pt. No cover sheets or folders, please.
- Petitions should be a minimum of two complete pages, but no more than three. It should be completely the work of the candidate, be thoroughly proofread by the candidate’s catechist, and contain no errors in grammar or punctuation.
- The footer of each page should contain the Candidate’s full name as well as the page number.
- Catechists will provide directions to the candidates as to how and when a draft version of the candidate’s Petition should be submitted (via hard copy, email, etc).
- Final, signed Petitions should be given to the candidate’s catechist anytime between February 21 and March 14.