

Writing a Letter to the Bishop

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Please type your letters using the name and address enclosed in these instructions.
2. Please sign your letters with your signature in pen, followed by your typewritten name.
3. Please submit this letter to your Confirmation Catechist **at your meeting on April 29, 2012**.
4. Please turn in your letter without folding it and without placing it in an envelope. We will send all the letters together in one envelope. Thanks!

This is the address you want to put at the upper left-hand corner of your letter:

**The Most Reverend Richard J. Sklba
Auxiliary Bishop - Emeritus of Milwaukee
P.O. Box 070912
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0912**

To write your letter:

Begin by writing: “Dear Bishop Sklba,”

Then, **in your own words**, write a letter requesting Confirmation.

Be sure to include:

1. What are the reasons you want to be confirmed?
2. What part of the preparation process was most helpful to you?
3. When confirmed, what difference will you make? (Personal growth in your relationship to God, service to others, doing God’s work in the world, etc.)
4. Some words of thanks to the Bishop for his time in coming to do the Confirmation at SJV.

Sign your letter in pen and type your name under the signature.

It’s that simple!

On the reverse side of this sheet is a SAMPLE letter (many others can be found online). DO NOT COPY ANY LETTER YOU FIND—simply write your own letter requesting confirmation! Trust that your words are good enough and that YOU can request to be confirmed using YOUR OWN language.

Sample Letter to a Bishop

Name of Bishop
Title of Bishop
Mailing Address

Dear (Bishop, Last Name of Bishop),

I am currently preparing to be confirmed at St. John Vianney Parish in Brookfield. Because I would like to participate as a full member of my church community, I am requesting to be confirmed this June. I believe that I am properly disposed to receive this sacrament and have adequately prepared for it over the course of the past year.

As part of my preparation for this sacrament, I participated in an overnight retreat and provided 20 hours of service. I did some of my service hours at a homeless shelter and the rest of my hours visiting shut-ins at a local nursing home. I also experienced new and ancient practices in our church through the Prayer Decathlon, and attended a regular monthly class meeting. I particularly enjoyed these meetings because our catechist—in addition to teaching the necessary material—would share stories about his faith experiences in various stages of his own life: when he was my age, when he was in college, when he served in the military, when he and his wife had their first child, and more recently as a middle-aged person. In him, I see the value of a life-long faith. These meetings have really inspired me along my journey toward confirmation.

My retreat experience was also a great part of this preparation. I spent time on the retreat getting to know my peers better by sharing the history of God in my life with them, exploring how I might have a better friendship with Jesus, and listening to various talks, especially one about “staying supercharged for the journey.” Since that time, I’ve tried to take time each week to reflect on whether or not my spiritual battery is charged or not—and if not, how I can plug-in and recharge, so that I can be a beacon of faith and hope to my family and peer group.

Thank you in advance for coming to our parish to confirm myself and the other 11th graders next month. I am looking forward to seeing you here at my home parish, and am very much looking forward to being confirmed. In the years to come, I look forward to becoming involved in the parish with more depth, and potentially becoming a Eucharistic Minister or Lector. I also look forward to continuing to do service to those who are most in need.

Sincerely,

William Stevenson