

Suggestions for writing the Letter to the Bishop – St. Agatha Parish 2015

(Including a paragraph in this letter about your Christian Service (**if you have completed it**) satisfies Your Christian Service Component for the Sacrament of Confirmation)

Each candidate for Confirmation needs to write a Letter to the Bishop that is due into this office by **June 1, 2015**. The letter is your personal acknowledgement to the Bishop that it is your desire to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. It is best to wait until after your Confirmation Retreat in April since many of the candidates might want to talk about this retreat.

The Pastor will hand-deliver the letters to the Bishop prior to your Confirmation. Be assured that the Bishop, the pastor and Mary Sheedy take these letters very seriously. They are a testament to your personal journey. We want these letters to reflect positively about you individually and St. Agatha Parish. I have confidence that you will do your best when you write your letter.

The letter will come easily to you once you get started. Begin simply by writing, “Dear Bishop Dooher.” Be sure your letter is neat and readable. **Your letter should be an attachment to your email.** Use your own words and write what is in your heart. Some points to include:

- Why you wish to be confirmed
- The name you have chosen and why you chose it
- The name of your sponsor and why you have chosen this person
- How you have prepared for this Sacrament. You might mention a particular class presentation or topic that particularly enlightened or touched you
- You could describe your retreat experience, either last year (9th grade) or this year (Sam and Jon Todzia – “Red Barn Ministries”).

CHRISTIAN CONFIRMATION SERVICE COMPONENT:

Very important: In order to receive credit for your Christian Confirmation service: if you have completed your Christian Confirmation service, a description of this service (what the service was, why you chose this service and the length of participation and, most importantly, how participating in this service affected you) must be included in a separate paragraph in this Letter to the Bishop. If you have not completed your Christian Confirmation service, in your email attaching the Letter to the Bishop specify the Christian service you expect to complete and the time frame you expect that it will be completed. All Christian service should be completed by August 1, 2015. Email Mary Sheedy (on or before this date) a paragraph about your Christian service using the same criteria outlined above for those describing their Christian service in the Letter to the Bishop.

The letter must be typed, and at least 3 paragraphs long and it must be your own work and signed by you. There is no ‘right’ way to do it, since everyone’s experience is different. Please try to avoid just going down the list above. Make it a personal reflection about you. *Don’t forget, when you email your letter it should be an attachment. You can send it to Mary Sheedy – msheedy@stagathaparish.org.*

It is not our intention to ‘chase’ anyone for their paperwork. *If you do not have your paperwork in on a timely basis, we will have no choice but to assume that you do not desire to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at this time.* We will keep your records in a secondary list for those whose Confirmation information is incomplete. At that point we will remove your name from the Confirmation Candidates but will retain your records should you decide to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at a future date.

Please also note – The pastor and I will review each letter before we bring them to the Bishop, and if a letter is unacceptable in any way (e.g. not neat, incomplete or inappropriate) it will be returned to you for revision. If you have any questions regarding the writing of this letter, please contact Mary Sheedy at 508-320-6918 or email her at msheedy@stagathaparish.org.