

Letter to the Pastor

Before the celebration of Confirmation, the Pastor is required by Canon Law to determine if the Confirmandi have been properly prepared to receive the sacrament, i.e., that you have a desire to know and understand what Confirmation is and how it will change your life. Therefore, you need to write a letter to the pastor addressing all of the following areas:

1. What does the Sacrament of Confirmation mean to you? You should write 2-3 paragraphs explaining your understanding of Confirmation; think about what Confirmation is and how you understand it as a sacrament. What makes confirmation different from other sacraments? Explain your answer completely.
2. Why do you believe you are ready to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation? Explain your reasons; ask yourself, "What has changed in my life that I believe I am ready to be confirmed?" "How have my beliefs changed from when I was younger, such as when I was in 6th grade or 7th grade?" Explain your answer completely.
3. Describe two ways the past two years of study, service hours, readings, and activities have helped you believe you are ready to be confirmed. Why? Explain your answer completely.
4. What gifts of the Holy Spirit are helping you prepare for Confirmation? Think about how these gifts are present in your life, such as when you were completing your service hours or perhaps when you were studying at PREP. The 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit are: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord.

The following information will help you prepare your answer: "**Wisdom** helps us recognize the importance of others and the importance of keeping God central in our lives. **Understanding** is the ability to comprehend the meaning of God's message. **Knowledge** is the ability to think about and explore God's revelation, and also to recognize there are mysteries of faith beyond us. **Counsel** is the ability to see the best way to follow God's plan when we have choices that relate to him. **Fortitude** is the courage to do what one knows is right. **Piety** helps us pray to God in true devotion. **Fear of the Lord** is the feeling of amazement before God, who is all-present, and whose friendship we do not want to lose." (From: <https://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/scripture-and-tradition/catholic-basics/catholic-beliefs-and-practices/gifts-of-the-holy-spirit>)

5. Remember: You may decide to celebrate your Confirmation at another time in your life. If you believe you are not ready and want to wait, you can include this information in your letter to the Pastor. He would be happy to discuss this with you in person. Contact the PREP Office for more information.