

May 11, 2009

Dear Parent,

Fr. Al and I along with the parish community of Our Lady Queen of Heaven invite your son or daughter to join with their peers in a faith journey to Confirmation.

Confirmation, along with the sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist, completes your son's or daughter's initiation into the Catholic Church. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states, in paragraph 1285, that "Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace. By the sacrament of Confirmation, the baptized are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit."

In keeping with the Diocese of La Crosse directive for the reception of Confirmation, Our Lady Queen of Heaven will be confirming those teens that are at least in ninth grade along with those teens in tenth to twelfth grades who have not yet been confirmed.

Requirements for participation in the Confirmation program are listed in the diocesan *Guidelines for the Sacrament of Confirmation*. You will receive a copy of the guidelines at the introductory parent meeting that is scheduled for Wednesday, June 3, 2009, 6:00 PM at **St. Lawrence Church**. Mark this date on your calendar!

Our Lady Queen of Heaven along with St. Lawrence's and St. Vincent De Paul's Confirmation Programs will collaborate with each other this coming September. The Confirmation sessions themselves will be held either at St. Vincent's or OLQH. This collaboration will benefit all concerned. For instance, if someone from St. Vincent's cannot make a session at their parish, that person can come here to Our Lady and visa versa. St. Vincent's will hold their Confirmation session on Sunday evenings from 6:30-8:00 PM. Our Lady together with St. Lawrence will hold Confirmation sessions on Wednesday evenings from 7:30-9:00 PM here at OLQH.

St. Vincent's session will proceed the session held here at Our Lady. For instance, a particular topic for Confirmation will be covered at St. Vincent's on Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. Our Lady will cover the same topic on Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup> and so forth. Checking your family schedule along with the schedule for Confirmation is very important.

There are exceptions to this...on the schedule wherever you see the words "SPEAKER at" this means that this is the ONLY session on a particular topic at the parish listed. These special dates will bring all three Confirmation programs together for that topic. Again, pay close attention to the schedule! If you have any questions or concerns contact me.

I have enclosed the following information for you and your son or daughter to look over and discuss –

1. A letter of invitation for your son or daughter
2. Confirmation program contract – **to be returned at time of initial interview! – call a.s.a.p. to schedule this interview with me – June and August. This interview *must* be completed before the retreat on September 13<sup>th</sup>!**
3. Confirmation registration form along with Baptismal information – **to be returned at initial interview!**
4. Sponsor information sheet listing the guidelines for sponsor acceptance – **to be returned by September 1, 2009.**
5. Schedule of events
6. The Choosing of a Saint
7. Letter to the minister of Confirmation

If you or your son or daughter have any questions, please feel free to contact me either by phone at o) 423-1251 or h) 325-7889 or by email [dreduff@yahoo.com](mailto:dreduff@yahoo.com)

God bless you and your family as you walk in faith with one another!