

Date: May 11, 2009
To: Teens of Confirmation Age
From: Nancy Metz, Director of Religious Education

I am writing to invite you to think more seriously about your Catholic faith. To that end, I encourage you to consider entering into the preparation program to celebrate and live out your faith in the Sacrament of Confirmation.

The decision to grow by affirming your Catholic faith is an important step in your life. Take some time to talk with your parents, older siblings or a trusted adult friend about your thoughts relating to confirmation.

Maybe, at this time, you're uncertain about your response. Well, you don't have to be positive that this is the step you want to take. I ask you to join other teens and find out for yourself what is involved and what type of commitment you are going to be asked to make.

The questions listed below are meant to help give some direction to your thoughts. These are some of the questions you may choose to talk over with your parents or trusted friend.

- ❖ How have I been learning more about my faith as I have grown? Have I participated in the religious offerings that are available through my parish or school? Have I learned to *live out* my faith?
- ❖ How often do I celebrate the Eucharist (attend Mass)? Am I faithful to celebrating Jesus' gift of his Body and Blood with the rest of my parish community on a regular basis? What questions or thoughts come to my mind when I think about Eucharist?
- ❖ Am I of service to other people through the way I live my life? Am I open to living out a life of service towards others?
- ❖ Do I have a relationship with Jesus? Do I pray? What does my prayer life and my relationship with Jesus say about what I think is important in my life right now?
- ❖ Am I willing to make prayer an integral part of my study for the Sacrament of Confirmation with other people my age in order to be more open to growing in my understanding of how I can live out my everyday life?

Reflecting on these questions, let alone having the answers, may seem like an impossible task. However, if you will at least agree to be *open* to growing in faith in the months ahead then you already have started that faith journey to Jesus who is the "Way" for us.

If you are thinking about becoming involved in the Confirmation process, you **must** take part in an initial interview. This interview will help me to know your questions and your faith needs during the Confirmation process. I will be having interviews with perspective candidates during the months of June and August. Please call me to schedule your interview. I may be reached at w) 423-1251 or h) 325-7889 or by email dreduff@yahoo.com. **No one will be allowed to attend Confirmation without first participating in the interview process.**

Please also mark your calendar for the Kick-Off retreat on Sunday, September 13th, *here at OLOH* in the cafeteria. We will begin promptly at 12:00 pm. Our retreat afternoon will end with the 6:00 PM Mass. BTW...*YES*, this retreat day is mandatory. FYI...the confirmation candidates from St. Vincent's and St. Lawrence will be joining us for the retreat.

I look forward to talking with you at the interview meeting. Take care and please give careful consideration to taking that special journey to confirm your faith in Jesus.

God Bless!