

"To know, to love, and to

October 26, 2020

Dear Parents,

"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. Hence, they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obligated to spread and defend the faith by word and deed." Lumen Gentium, 1285

Just as the apostles were given the strength to go out from the upper room and teach and preach the truth about Christ, so, too, your children will be given this same gift to stand up for Christ in a world that is becoming increasingly muddled about the truth.

Preparation for Confirmation should aim at leading them toward a more intimate union with Christ and a more lively familiarity with the Holy Spirit - His gifts, His actions, His biddings - in order to be able to discern truth from lies, good from evil, and love from indifference.

As parents, you are the primary educators of your children (Catechism 1653). The parish Religious Education Office cannot replace you, but it does bear a special responsibility for the preparation of candidates for Confirmation (Catechism 1309). Therefore, your child needs to complete the requirements for Confirmation to be prepared to demonstrate his or her understanding and readiness to receive the sacrament. We encourage you, along with the sponsor, to be intimately involved with your child as he or she is preparing this year. By doing so, this time of preparation can also renew and strengthen your own faith.

This package contains information about the process and preparation of your child to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Veronica. All the necessary preparations are to be completed as demonstration of one's readiness to receive the Sacrament. Please review this information carefully, contact the Religious Education Office with any questions, and make sure to complete and return all requirements by their due dates.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis W. Kleinmann".

Father Dennis W. Kleinmann
Pastor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard E. Dyer".

Rev. Richard E. Dyer
Director of Religious Education

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrea Shermer".

Mrs. Andrea Shermer
Coordinator of Religious Education

Confirmation

“The initiation of children into the sacramental life is ordinarily the responsibility and concern of Christian parents. They are to form and gradually increase a spirit of faith in the children and, at times with the help of catechism classes, prepare them for the faithful reception of the Sacraments of Confirmation and the Eucharist. The role of the parents is also expressed by their active participation in the celebration of the sacraments” (Rite of Confirmation, DOL 2513).

“Through the Sacrament of Confirmation, those who have been born anew in baptism receive the ineffable gift, the Holy Spirit Himself, by which ‘they are endowed with special strength’ and by the character of this sacrament ‘are bound more perfectly to the Church’ and ‘are more strictly obliged, as true witnesses of Christ, to spread and defend the faith by word and deed...’” (Apostolic Constitution Divinae Consortium Naturae, 1971).

“One of the highest responsibilities of the people of God is to prepare the baptized for Confirmation.” (DOL 2512).

“Just as Christ, after His baptism and the coming upon Him of the Holy Spirit went forth and defeated the adversary, so also with you. After holy Baptism and the Mystical Chrism (Confirmation), having put on the full suit of armor of the Holy Spirit, you are to withstand the power of the adversary, and defeat him, saying, ‘I am able to do all things in Christ, Who strengthens me.’” (St. Cyril of Jerusalem, 350 A.D.)

“But it is God who established us with you in Christ, and has commissioned us; He has put His seal upon us and given us His Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee” (2 Cor 1:21)

“...this sacrament is called by the Church ‘Confirmation’ because, if there is no obstacle to the efficacy of the Sacrament, baptized persons, when anointed with the sacred chrism by the Bishop, with the accompanying solemn words..., become stronger with the strength of a new power, and thus begin to be... perfect soldier[s] of Christ.” (Catechism of the Council of Trent)

“The grace conferred by the Sacrament of Confirmation is more specifically a gift of strength. This gift corresponds to the need for greater zeal in facing the ‘spiritual battle’ of faith and charity in order to resist temptation and give the witness of Christian word and deed to the world with courage, fervor, and perseverance. This zeal is conferred by the Holy Spirit.” (Saint John Paul II, L’Osservatore Romano, 8 April 1992).

Quotes taken from: *Called to Knighthood: The Sacrament of Confirmation in the Kingdom Family of God*, by Thomas K. Sullivan.

The Fellowship of the Unashamed

I am a part of the "Fellowship of the Unashamed."

The die has been cast. The decision has been made. I have stepped over the line. I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away or be still.

My past is redeemed, my present makes sense and my future is secure. I'm finished and done with low living, small planning, the bare minimum, smooth knees, mundane talking, frivolous living, selfish giving, and dwarfed goals.

I no longer need preeminence, prosperity, position, promotions, plaudits or popularity. I don't have to be right, first, tops, recognized, praised, regarded or rewarded. I now live by faith. I lean on Christ's presence. I love with patience, live by prayer, and labor with power.

My face is set. My gait is fast, my goal is heaven. My road is narrow, my way is rough, my companions are few, my Guide is reliable and my mission is clear.

I cannot be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, deluded or delayed. I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of adversity, negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity or meander in the maze of mediocrity.

I won't give up, shut up, let up or slow up until I have stayed up, stored up, prayed up, paid up and spoken up for the cause of Christ.

I am a disciple of Jesus. I am a Catholic. I must go until He comes, give till I drop, speak out until all know, and work until He stops me. And when He comes for His own, He will have no problem recognizing me. My banner is clear: I am a part of the "Fellowship of the Unashamed."

Adapted from original

Explanation of Requirements

Due no later than January 4, 2021, to Miss Cintorino, Mrs. Perna, Mr. Dobson, or Mrs. Shermer (for home-schooled students and students from other Catholic schools):

☐ **CONFIRMATION SAINT REPORT**

A two-page double-spaced report on the life of the Saint whose name you have chosen as your Confirmation name. Please include in this report your reason for choosing this saint, a biography of the saint's life, and a **Works Cited** with three sources. ***Do not copy or plagiarize*** directly from the internet or any other source; rather, take the facts you find and put them in your own words as you would for any other school project.

Due No later than January 11, 2021 to your Teachers or the Religious Education Office:

☐ **Application for the Reception of Confirmation Form**

This form is your way of indicating your desire to have your child confirmed, and it must be filled out with all the vital information we need for your child to receive Confirmation.

☐ **Baptismal Certificate**

Each candidate must submit a copy of his/her Baptismal Certificate. If baptized outside of the United States of America, please allow ample time to retrieve a copy of the certificate from the parish of the Baptism. If you have previously submitted a Baptismal Certificate, please verify with the Religious Education Office that it is on file.

☐ **Confirmation Sponsor Certificate of Eligibility Form**

The candidate is required to select a person to be his or her sponsor. The sponsor must meet the criteria listed on the "Sponsor Eligibility" page in this packet. The sponsor must fill out the Certificate of Eligibility Form from their parish and the pastor of his/her parish must sign it and affix the parish seal.

Due No later than February 1, 2021

to your teachers or to the Religious Education Office.

☐ **Letter to the Archbisiop, the Most Reverend Timothy Broglio**

Either type or use your best handwriting to write our Bishop a ***one page*** letter telling him why you want to be confirmed. These letters will be COLLECTED BY YOUR TEACHERS, and should not be mailed individually to Archbishop Broglio.

Bring these items to Confirmation Interviews on March 1:

- ☐ Completed Confirmation Requirements Checklist.
- ☐ Corrected Confirmation Exam.
- ☐ Completed Service Requirement Form.

Other Important Information

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

It is imperative that every child involved in a sacramental preparation program attend Religious Education (RE) classes regularly and achieve a final passing grade. Excessive absences or insufficient time devoted to preparation may result in a student's not being prepared to receive the Sacrament in the spring of 2021.

MASS ATTENDANCE AND FREQUENT CONFESSION

Attendance at Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation is a precept of the Church. Confession is offered several times a week at St. Veronica Parish. *The Sunday Eucharist is the foundation and confirmation of all Christian practice.* (Catechism 2182).

CONFIRMATION NAME

Each candidate must choose a Confirmation name, whether the Baptismal name is kept or a new name is chosen. In choosing a Confirmation name, the candidate must choose a Saint's name. By doing so each candidate has a model for holiness and a patron and intercessor. Candidates may choose a saint of the same or opposite gender (example: a girl choosing a female or male saint's name).

CONFIRMATION EXAM

The Confirmation Exam will be administered **February 8** during class sessions. Confirmation students enrolled at St. Veronica School will be given the confirmation exam during regular class hours. Homeschool students should come to one of the RE class sessions at which the exam will be given. Each Candidate will need to bring their corrected exam to the Confirmation interviews.

CONFIRMATION INTERVIEWS

Each candidate will be personally interviewed by Father Kleinmann, Father Dyer, or Mrs. Shermer. The interviews will be conducted in groups of three. Candidates should bring their corrected Confirmation exams, completed Service Requirement Forms, and completed Confirmation Requirements Checklist to the interviews. For Religious Education students (both in-person and studying at-home), those attending Catholic schools other than St. Veronica, and students being homeschooled in religious education, the **interviews are scheduled for March 1st during class time**. St. Veronica School students will have interviews during school hours.

CONFIRMATION RETREAT

All Confirmation candidates are required to attend a mandatory retreat prior to receiving Confirmation. **The retreat will be held TBD at St. Paul VI High School.** Schedule data will be provided well in advance.

CONFIRMATION PRACTICE

There will be a mandatory practice session for all confirmandi on Monday, April 19th at 6:30 PM. The practice is designed to acquaint the candidates with the structure of the Confirmation Liturgy. The practice focuses on the candidates' procession into the Church, music and responses, and the students' participation in the liturgy. ***Each candidate's sponsor and/or parent are required to attend the practice session.***

CONFIRMATION MASS

Confirmation will take place on Thursday, April 22, 2020, at 7:00 PM. ***Confirmandi must be at Church no later than 6:00 PM.*** There will be no picture taking permitted during the Confirmation ceremony. The Archbishop will be available for pictures at the reception following the confirmation Mass.

CONFIRMATION MASS RECEPTION

Following the Confirmation Mass, there will be a reception with the Archbishop and parish priests for all candidates, their families and friends in the parish hall. Confirmandi must wear their robes during the entire reception.

DRESS CODE FOR THE CONFIRMATION MASS

The dress should reflect the solemn celebration. Young men are required to wear dress pants, dress shoes (no sneakers), a dress shirt with a collar and a tie. A jacket is optional. Young men should not wear earrings. Young ladies are required to wear ***modest*** dress clothes, such as a dress or skirt, and dress shoes. Dresses and skirts should be no shorter than the top of the knee. Sleeveless is permitted but not strapless. The neckline of the dress, blouse or sweater should be conservative and please, no sparkles or sequins. All candidates will wear robes and robes will stay on until preparing to leave the reception to travel home. *This modest dress code applies to **sponsors and proxies** as well.* Please, be conservative and wear business type clothes to the retreat and the rehearsal.



Confirmation Sponsor Eligibility Duties & Responsibilities

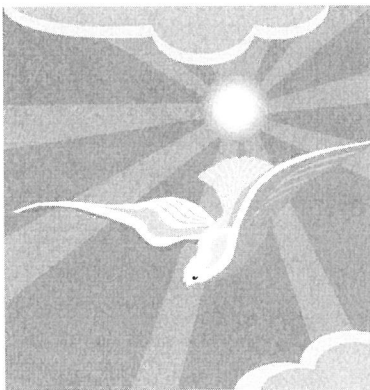
A sponsor for a Confirmation candidate is meant to provide spiritual help to the candidate (Catechism 1311). He or she should be willing to serve as a strong and lasting Christian influence on the candidate. The sponsor enters into a spiritual relationship with the candidate and acts as a sort of spiritual parent and mentor. Therefore, it is both a great blessing and a responsibility to commit to the role of a sponsor.

Each candidate may choose only one sponsor; it may be either a man or a woman. A sponsor takes on a life-long commitment to help their candidate persevere in the Faith. According to the Code of Canon Law (892), “The sponsor is to take care that the confirmed person behaves as a true witness of Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations inherent in this sacrament.” The Church states that it is desirable that the sponsor would be one of the person’s godparents; however, this is not a requirement (893, §2). The sponsor must be a registered member of a Catholic parish to get the Sponsor Certificate of Eligibility signed by the pastor.

According to Canon 874, a sponsor must meet the following criteria:

- Must be 16 years old or older
- Must have received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist
- Must not be a parent of the one to be confirmed

In the event that the sponsor cannot attend the Confirmation liturgy in person, a proxy, explicitly designated by the sponsor, who fulfills the above qualifications, may stand in for the sponsor during the liturgy. If the Confirmation candidate has a proxy, he or she must notify the Religious Education Office in advance.



Guidelines for Works of Mercy Service Projects

"It is to you young people that the task first falls of bearing witness to the Faith and bringing into the Faith and bringing into the third millennium the Gospel of Christ, who is the Way, the Truth, the Life..." Pope St. John Paul II

As you prepare for Confirmation, it is vital that you understand the need for serving your fellow man, as well as your brothers and sisters in faith. The Works of Mercy are powerful ways to serve all people.

"The works of mercy are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities. Instructing, advising, consoling, and comforting are spiritual works of mercy, as are forgiving and bearing wrongs patiently. The corporal works of mercy, consist especially in feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and burying the dead." (CCC 2447)

"Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited... Then the righteous will answer him 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick... and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.'" (Matthew 25:34-40)

Corporal Works of Mercy

1. Feed the hungry
2. Give drink to the thirsty
3. Clothe the naked
4. Visit the sick
5. Shelter the homeless
6. Visit the imprisoned
7. Bury the dead

Spiritual Works of Mercy

1. Admonish the sinners
2. Instruct the ignorant
3. Counsel the doubtful
4. Comfort the sorrowing
5. Bear wrongs patiently
6. Forgive all injuries
7. Pray for the living and the dead

Service is based on the spiritual and corporal works of mercy, and most of all, on the example of Christ who came to serve. When providing service, the following points should be considered:

- Your service is not just a job to be done.
- You should reflect on how your service project is helping you take on the mind and heart of Christ, fulfill the needs of others, and build up the Christian community.
- The giving of service should continue after your Confirmation day and all through your life.

You must perform a total of **6 separate tasks** that require at least **an hour each or more** of your time relating to **3 different Corporal Works** and **3 different Spiritual Works**. Write a brief 1-2 paragraph summary of each Work you perform.

Ideas for Works of Mercy Projects

The Corporal Works of Mercy:

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| Feed the Hungry/
Give Drink to the Thirsty: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Participate in a Food Drive (i.e. collect canned goods)-Work in a Soup Kitchen (w/ parental assistance)-Make dinner for the family or a shut-in |
| <p>(Many parish groups need help. Some suggestions: help with various service projects performed by the Knights of Columbus; making sandwiches for a homeless shelter with our Saint Mother Teresa Outreach Program; volunteering to assist at various receptions and dinners.)</p> | |
| Clothe the Naked: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Do a Family Clothing Drive; Coat Collection |
| Visit the Sick: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Visit a Nursing Home; Offer your service (without pay) to an elderly neighbor to do special projects such as mowing, shoveling of snow, raking leaves, or weeding.-Help out a sick person in your family or neighborhood |
| Shelter the Homeless: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Participate in a Blanket Drive-Participate in a Walk for the Homeless-Collect bathroom supplies for Christ House-Help make sandwiches for a homeless shelter |
| Visit the Imprisoned: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">--Collect books to donate to a prison library |
| Bury the Dead: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Visit a Cemetery and pray there for the faithful departed-Assist with a bereavement Luncheon-Attend a funeral |

The Spiritual Works of Mercy:

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| Admonish the Sinners: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Gently correct someone who is misguided-Pray for the conversion of sinners |
| Instruct the Ignorant: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Assist with a religious education class (if you are not an RE student)-Help a younger sibling with homework-Help a younger sibling to learn prayers |
| Counsel the Doubtful: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Lend encouragement to someone who is “down.” |
| Comfort the Sorrowing: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Make a card for someone who is ill or who has lost a loved one. |
| Bear wrongs patiently: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Discuss an occasion when you “turned the other cheek.” |
| Forgive all injuries: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Make peace with those with whom you struggle or have problems |
| Pray for the living and
and the dead | <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Pray regularly as a family-Offer prayers for the souls in purgatory-Attend a Holy Hour; engage in Eucharistic Adoration |

Works of Mercy Service Project – Sample Sheet

Your Works of Mercy Project must consist of activities relating to both the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. Below is a sample of what a full report on the different Works of Mercy you perform might look like. A summary like this would be acceptable for the completion of your Works of Mercy Project.

Corporal Works of Mercy:

1. **Feed the Hungry** – I helped with one of the Lenten Suppers at St. Veronica's on a Friday during Lent. I prepared bread on plates for people to eat. I also helped served salad to people. This activity helped me understand what it is like to serve others. The people who prepare these suppers put a lot of effort into it. They do this during Lent to remind us of Jesus, when he fasted 40 days in the desert. The small sacrifice of not eating meat on Fridays during Lent reminds us of Jesus sacrifice on the cross.

AND/OR

I attended and helped make sandwiches for a local homeless shelter as part of St. Veronica's Blessed Mother Teresa Outreach. Making sandwiches and placing them and other food items in simple brown paper bags helped me understand what it is like to serve others. The people who need these simple meals have so little, even though they are in a county that is so wealthy. Doing this helped me to understand that I really need very little, even though I sometimes want an awful lot of things. The small sacrifice of serving others reminds us what Jesus said in the Bible: He came to serve and not to be served.

2. **Visit the Sick** - I did two things relating to this. First, my family visited my Grandparents in New Jersey. My grandma always tells us what is wrong with her. We listen to her and try to cheer her up. We have to move a little slower with my grandpa because he is blind in one eye. I take time to listen to both of them. Second, my mom and I went to Fairfax Hospital once. We visited some children there. We brought pinwheels for them to play with. Some of the children have trouble with their lungs, and blowing on the pinwheels helps strengthen them. It's also fun too. Doing this helped me understand Jesus better, because out of love, He visited those who were sick too.
3. **Bury the Dead** – On Christmas Eve, we visited the graves of my grandparents in Maryland. It was a very emotional event for my dad. He cried because they were his parents. When it was time to go, we had to help him walk away from their graves. While we were there we said prayers for them. After we left, I helped comfort my dad. This helped me understand how much you can really care about another person, even after they have died. Also, it shows how you can still keep in touch with them through prayer.

Spiritual Works of Mercy:

1. **Instruct the Ignorant** - I helped my little brother with his religious education homework for a few weeks. He needed help learning some of his prayers, as well as learning about some of the things that Jesus taught. Doing this helped me see how God helps people know about Him by working through the people who already know and follow Him. It's a good feeling to know that God is working through me in order to make good things happen.
2. **Comfort the Sorrowing** - I did two things relating to this. First, I found out my uncle was sick and that he had to have tests at the hospital. I made a get-well card for him and decorated it myself. He called me to say that he had received it and that he appreciated it. Second, in school I have spent a few weeks talking and listening to another student whose best friend had accidentally been killed by a car. Both these activities helped me understand why it is important to be thankful for our blessings and to thank God every day for them because we do not know when bad things will happen to us.
3. **Pray for the Living and the Dead** – My parents and I went to Eucharistic Adoration at the Adoration Chapel at St. Veronica's. We spent an hour there. We prayed for people who needed guidance and knowledge, like the people in government and our teachers, and we also pray for the souls in Purgatory to help ease their suffering. This helped me see the value and need for prayer in our daily lives, because it not only helps us love other people better, it also helps us grow closer to God.

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- Candidates who participate in Pro-life rallies such as the Life Chain, Pro-life March, Pro-life Walk, or pray in front of an abortion clinic, may count these activities towards their *Spiritual Works* of Mercy Project.

You must list the service projects that you have completed on the sheet found on the next page in this packet. Parent's signature or the signature of the person who was the recipient of the service is required to verify the service.