

# SMV 2019-2020 Confirmation Formation Handbook

The Church asks that preparation for a sacrament be two-fold. There is what is called “remote” preparation and then “proximate” preparation. Remote preparation for the reception of a sacrament is that preparation which has been taking place since the moment of Baptism. It is accomplished through regular attendance at Sunday Mass, through the faith-life of the home, and by participation in religious formation in either a religious education program or in a Catholic school. Proximate preparation is the immediate preparation which is given for a specific sacrament, helping the recipient understand the graces and the call that is present in every sacramental encounter with the Lord.

In line with that two-fold preparation process, the SMV Confirmation Formation Program was revamped a few years ago to reflect this call for proximate preparation. The Confirmation Formation Program will be primarily focused on completing an online Confirmation program with a parent or sponsor and attending three small group sessions during the first semester of Junior Year. The second semester of Junior Year is comprised of a retreat and four speaker sessions culminating in the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation at a date determined by the Archdiocese.

If a teen is unable to attend a group study session, speaker series or the retreat, it will be the responsibility of the teen to notify their small group leader and Youth Minister.

St. Mary’s Visitation Parish schedules an annual Mass for the celebration of Confirmation with the expectation that most teens will receive Confirmation during their junior year according to Archdiocesan norms. However, if one is unsure of their intention to receive Confirmation, it is also acceptable to delay the Sacrament until a teen’s senior year of high school.

Registration for Confirmation Formation indicates that your teen is committed to full participation in all study sessions and speaker series, including the overnight retreat and providing one service within their parish community and two services within their high school and/or community. The teens are also responsible for selecting a sponsor and communicating the sponsor responsibilities to the person selected.

*ALL WHO PLAN TO BE CONFIRMED in 2020 at St. Mary's Visitation Parish:  
MUST ATTEND Sunday, September 15, 2019 Meeting at 10:00am in the Senior  
Center!*

## **September 15, 2019**

### **Parent & Candidate Meeting**

Parents and Teens, 10:00-11:15 a.m., Senior Center

- Candidate expectations
- Choosing a Sponsor
- Choosing a Confirmation Saint Name

### **Registration Requirements**

- \* Online Registration and payment link ([Confirmation Registration](#))
- \* Sign-up for Pre-Confirmation interview link ([Confirmation signup link](#))
- \* Copy of Baptismal Certificate if not baptized at SMV

### **Materials to pick up at meeting**

- Confirmation Preparation Schedule 2019-2020
- Confirmation Handbook
- Confirmation Sponsor Booklet(included in Confirmation Handbook)
- Candidate and Parent/Sponsor online study selection material
- Confirmation Retreat Permission Form

### **Confirmation Saint Name & Saint Reflection Paper Information:**

- Form - Due December 1, 2019

### **Separate Sponsor Forms (All included in Sponsor Booklet):**

- Confirmation Sponsor Certificate (pastor at sponsor's church needs to complete this form)  
Certificate– Due December 1, 2019
- Confirmation Sponsor *Record of Meetings* and *Recommendation of Candidate*  
Record & Recommendation- Due by February 21, 2020

## **Confirmation Formation Schedule**

- Attend Mass weekly - Faithful attendance at Mass weekly is expected.
  - Attend **all** sessions. If you miss –you must contact Elizabeth Harrison.
  - Candidates are responsible for communicating parent and sponsor responsibilities to their parents and selected sponsor.

### 2019-20 St. Mary Visitation Sacrament of Confirmation Preparation Schedule

Four Sundays, 9:00AM Mass at SMV church &  
10:00-11:00AM Session at SMV Senior Center  
unless otherwise noted

Candidates participate in a pre-program interview, online study sessions, group study sessions, speaker sessions, four meetings with their sponsor outside of the Confirmation sessions, parish service, an overnight Confirmation retreat, rehearsal and celebration

Sponsor or Parent participate with candidate in the online study sessions, group study sessions, speaker sessions, four meetings with candidate outside of Confirmation sessions, rehearsal and celebration.

<b>Sun Aug 4 2019</b>	9:00am – noon	<b>15 minute meeting with Mrs. Harrison #1 - Attic</b>
<b>Sun Aug 11, 2019</b>	9:00am – noon	<b>15 minute meeting with Mrs. Harrison #2 - Attic</b>
<b>Sun Aug 18, 2019</b>	9:00am – noon	<b>15 minute meeting with Mrs. Harrison #3 - Attic</b>
<b>Sun Aug 25, 2019</b>	9:00am – noon	<b>15 minute meeting with Mrs. Harrison #4 - Attic</b>
<b>Sun Sept 29 2019</b>	9:00am- 10:30am	<b>15 minute meeting with Mrs. Harrison #5 - Attic</b>
<b>Oct to Dec</b>		<p>Teens are to select and complete one online Confirmation study program. The programs to select from are either <u>Chosen</u> or <u>Decision Point</u>. Teens need to contact Mrs. Harrison with the selected program and pick up needed materials.</p> <p><u>Chosen</u> is a good review of the Catholic Church beliefs and why we practice the teachings of Jesus the way we do.</p> <p><u>Decision Point</u> is a prayerful reflection on how Confirmation can transform us and how the world can try to distract us from truly becoming one with Jesus.</p> <p>Teens are to work with an adult/sponsor in completing the online program.</p> <p>Once a month, teens are expected to participate in a group study with a parent/sponsor as the leader. Teens can gather in small groups of 2 or more and select a time and location that works best for the group. Teens are responsible for writing a study session summary after each study session and at the end of the program, or by January 1, 2019.</p>
<b>Sun Dec 8</b>	5:00pm – 5:30pm	<b>Confirmation Family Rosary - Church</b>
<b>Sun Jan 5</b>		<b>Written <u>Chosen</u> or <u>Decision Point</u> Study Summary due</b>
<b>Sun Jan 12</b>	9:00am – 11:00am	<b>Confirmation Speaker #1- Father Peter Berger 9:00 AM Mass &amp; 10:00 AM Senior Center</b>

<b>Sun Jan 26</b>	2:00 pm- 3:30:pm	<b>Confirmation Speaker #2- Rich Curran</b> <b><i>St. John Vianney Parish</i></b>
<b>Sun Feb 2</b>	9:00am 11:00am	<b>Confirmation Speaker #3 – Father John Burns</b> 9:00 AM Mass & 10:00 AM Senior Center
<b>Sun Feb 9</b>	9:00am – 11:00am	<b>Confirmation Speaker #4-Mrs. Grace Urbanski</b> 9:00 AM Mass & 10:00 AM Senior Center
<b>Sat Feb 29</b> <b>Sun Mar 1</b>	7:45am 12 noon	Confirmation Retreat (Saturday-Sunday) St. Benedict's Abbey - Kenosha, WI
<b>Fri March 13</b>		<b>Rehearsal with candidates &amp; sponsors at 7:00pm in parish atrium</b>
<b>Sat March 14</b>		<b>Confirmation Liturgy at 10:00 am with Bishop Haines</b> <b>Plan about 2 hours for the liturgy.</b> <b>Teens and sponsors should arrive by 9:45 am</b> <b>Social to follow in the parish atrium</b>

# **CONFIRMATION CHECKLIST:**

- \_\_\_ **Get “Sponsor Packet” to your Sponsor immediately!**
- \_\_\_ Complete an interview with Elizabeth Harrison or Priest by September 2019
- \_\_\_ Turn in Baptismal certificate, if not baptized at SMV.

## **Due December 1, 2019**

- \_\_\_ Sponsor Form is due  
NOTE: the pastor at the parish where the sponsor is a registered member needs to fax or mail in the certified part of the sponsor form to the parish office. The sponsor is responsible for getting this form to the pastor well in advance to 12/1 due date.  
Fax: 262-782-0677  
Address: St. Mary’s Visitation Parish, Attn: Elizabeth Harrison,  
1260 Church Street, Elm Grove, WI 53122
- \_\_\_ Choose a Confirmation Saint name form **and** turn in one page reflection
- \_\_\_ Confirmation Retreat Parent Permission Form signed & delivered to parish office

## **Confirmation Retreat – Saturday, February 29 & Sunday, March 1, 2020**

- \_\_\_ Attend Confirmation overnight Retreat – St. Benedict Abbey, Kenosha, WI  
Saturday, February 29 leave SMV by 7:45am  
Sunday, March 1, return to SMV by 12 noon

If you must miss the retreat, for a serious reason beyond your control, contact Mrs. Harrison ASAP.

- \_\_\_ Write a letter to the confirming Bishop requesting to be confirmed. Teens will write the letter to the bishop while on retreat.

## **Required by February 29**

- \_\_\_ Write a one page reflection paper on your service experiences.  
Describe what moved you to choose this service and how you were changed by it.
- \_\_\_ Remind sponsors to complete a letter of recommendation for you  
The letter needs to reflect on the times you met and what you discussed.

## Early March -Prior to Receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation

\_\_\_\_\_ Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation – All candidates should receive this sacrament before Confirmation. Reconciliation is offered on retreat and is also offered at SMV.  
Consult the bulletin for Reconciliation times offered.

## **SERVICE: THE REFLECTION OF CHRIST JESUS**

Each Candidate is required to provide service to SMV parish, school and community. Service is meant to deepen the connection with God's will for your lives. *What is He calling you to?* At least one service event needs to be within the parish community and two others in your school or community. As young adult members of St. Mary's Visitation Parish, you are vital to the ongoing life of our parish, not only this year, but next year and as long as you are members of SMV.

Date	Time & Contact	Service	Event
October 2019	After all masses October 6 & 13, 20 & 27	Thanksgiving Dance Candy Bar Sale	Raising funds for dance
November 9, 2019	Volunteers are needed at Setup 4:00PM Dance 5:00PM-8:30PM Cleanup 8:30PM-9:00PM SMVThanksgivingDance@gmail.com	Assist with physically & cognitively challenged guests  Setup , sell candy bars, take down	Thanksgiving Dance Party
October 26, 2019	8:00 mass 9:00 AM- to 2:00 PM	Fall Cleanup on church grounds and in neighborhood	Make-a Difference Day/Rake Leaves
October 30, 2019	Wednesday, 6:30-7:30 PM Elizabeth Harrison	Teach the children about serving like the saints and how to live a sacramental life	All Saint parade in costume on November 1 <sup>st</sup> .
October 2019- January 2019	Respect Life Calendar Contact: Molly Berens	Stand for justice and protect life.	Respect Life Sunday – October 6 <a href="#">Attend Life Chain – October 6</a> Rosary for Life – October x Bottle Drive October x & x <a href="#">March for Life – January 11 Chicago</a> <a href="#">March for Life – January 24 DC</a>
October-April	Contact: Mrs. Maciejewski sistermaryterri@gmail.com Thrift Shop – 262-784-6677 x151 Contact: Josh Dieterich – EDGE	Volunteer time and talent with SMV ministries Minister to our community and families through parish outreach and middle school education.	Thrift Shop Volunteer
December, 2019 & April 2020	Contact parish office for more information and watch the bulletin for announcements	Glorify God	Decorate Church for Christmas & Easter
December, 2019	Contact parish office for more information and watch the bulletin for announcements	Love children and families	Angel Tree
January, 2020	Contact parish office for more information and watch the bulletin for announcements	Protect the defenseless	Diocese Respect Life Mass
January –April 2020	6:30-7:30 PM Elizabeth Harrison	Teach one of the Catholic Formation grade school classrooms (K5-4 <sup>th</sup> ) about one of the Corporal Works of Mercy	Presentation at SMV School for Catholic Formation children
February, 2019	Timing is up to you and the homebound individual. Contact: Heritage Home 262-786-5800	Compassion for the frail	Visit Heritage Home
March 14, 2020	9:00 am to 9:00 pm Elizabeth Harrison	Small group leader at Catholic Youth Rally for 9 <sup>th</sup> and 10 <sup>th</sup> grade teens	Wisconsin Catholic Youth Rally – Carroll University
April 9, 2020	6:00 pm to 8:00 pm Elizabeth Harrison	Commemorate the Last Supper by volunteering to have your feet washed	Holy Thursday washing of feet

# Confirmation Name Form

## 2019-2020

### **Why do we choose a “Confirmation Name”?**

Within the Christian tradition, names hold great meaning. For example, Jesus gave his disciple Simon the name “Peter”, which literally meant “rock”, as a foreshadowing of Simon becoming the foundation, or rock, of the Church. Historically, people preparing for Confirmation chose a new name to symbolize this new chapter of their life in Christ. Choosing a Confirmation name is a great honor and allows you to choose a name that means something to you as you are now.

### **What kind of name should I choose?**

Archbishop ListECKI, asks that it be the name of a Saint. These are all different kinds of people who lived exceptional lives. They each boldly witnessed God’s love for the world in a unique way – so look for someone you relate to and/or are inspired by. You may wish to choose the patron saint of a particular area of interest. Patron saints are chosen as special protectors or guardians over areas of life – occupations, illnesses, causes – anything that is important to us. For example, Francis of Assisi loved nature and so he is patron of ecologists. Francis de Sales was a writer so he is patron of journalists and writers. There are patrons for pretty much everything, so I’m confident you’ll find someone that connects with your life.

### **Confirmation Names - *Guidelines from our Bishops***

Candidates may use their baptismal name or another Christian name when receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.

- A Christian name would be the name of a saint or blessed.
- Derivatives of names (Kelly for Catherine; Jenna for Genevieve) or Old Testament names are also appropriate.
- Candidates may use their first or second names if they are Christian names, or they may select a new Christian name.
- Exceptions can be made if a particular non-Christian or family name has significant meaning for a candidate that can be articulated to the bishop.
- Most importantly, candidates should be encouraged to learn about their patron as part of their preparation for the sacrament and should particularly focus on the virtues of their patron they wish to emulate.

## St. Mary's Visitation Confirmation Name Form 2019-2020

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Legal First Name

Legal Middle Name

Legal Last Name

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Chosen Confirmation Name

Saint Named After

Example: [Therese -- Saint Therese of Lisieux]

## Confirmation Name Response Questions 2019-2020

- Don't think of this as an essay or paper for school; rather, view it as more of a journal entry.
  - Please type. No need to write more than a page.
  - *Note: you may need to do some research in addition to the websites listed in order to find all of the information you need.*
1. Which Saint did you choose? Where was she/he from? What time period?
    - a. Were they the patron saint of something personally relevant to you? Did the way she/he lived resonate with you? Is the saint's name, a family name?
    - b. What's the origin of this name?
  2. What name did you choose? Why?
  3. If there are multiple saints by that name, make it clear which one you mean. If the Saint has a subtitle (such as "Thérèse of Lisieux, the Little Flower of Jesus"), include it because that will help clarify who you are talking about.
  4. What do you admire about this Saint?
  5. Name a few positive characteristics (virtues) that she/he exemplified. (i.e. courage, compassion, perseverance, etc.)
  6. Why do you need those same virtues today?

***Please turn your responses and your Confirmation Name Form to  
Youth Minister, by December 1, 2019.***

# **THE ROLE OF THE CONFIRMATION SPONSOR**

A sponsor should play an important role in preparing the candidate for Confirmation, is required to participate in the Confirmation ceremony, and should serve as a guide and role model afterward in the life long journey toward Christ.

Candidates for Confirmation, as for Baptism, fittingly seek the spiritual help of a sponsor. To emphasize the unity of the two sacraments, it is appropriate that this be one of the baptismal godparents. Although one of the Confirmation candidate's godparents is the ideal, this is not the only choice. (CCC 1311)

Like the godparents chosen at Baptism, sponsors "must be firm believers, able and ready to help (the Confirmed) on the road of Christian life. Their task is a truly ecclesial function....bearing some responsibility for the development and safeguarding of the grace given at Baptism." (CCC 1255)

Like parents and godparents, they share in the responsibility for the salvation of the young soul entrusted to them. Because our life on earth is "a pilgrimage to the Father which takes place primarily in the heart" (Pope John Paul II, *The Trinity's Embrace*), the sponsor should be a Catholic who loves and lives his or her faith and continues to grow in the knowledge of the Catholic faith. This is evident in a person who spends time in daily prayer and frequent encounters with Jesus in the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Eucharist. Consequently, the sponsor's heart reflects the tender and affectionate love of the hearts of Jesus and Mary and the gifts of the Holy Spirit, providing a living example of joyful Christian life.

## **Specifically, sponsors must:**

- Commit time to help prepare the Candidate for Confirmation(online study)
- Attend all Sponsor/Candidate Confirmation Formation Sessions with teen.
- Write a letter to the Candidate encouraging them in their faith.
- Attend Mass with Candidate when possible.
- If possible, participate in some form of community service activity with the Candidate.
- Attend Confirmation rehearsal and Confirmation ceremony.
- Be available to guide the confirmed after Confirmation.
- Encourage the confirmed to practice their faith by frequenting the sacraments, serving as a good example to society, and living up to their commitment to spread and defend the faith.

## **DATES REQUIRED FOR CANDIDATES & SPONSORS:**

- Sunday, December 8, 2019-**Family Rosary** – Teen & Sponsor volunteer to lead a decade -5:00pm-5:30pm- SMV Church
- *Sunday, January 12, 2020--**Morality** – Father Peter Berger - 9:00am Mass & 10:00am-11:30am- Senior Center*
- Sunday, January 26, 2020- **What is Confirmation?**- Rich Curran- 2:00pm-3:30pm- St. John Vianney
- *Sunday, February 2, 2020 – **His will, not mine.**- Father John Burns  
9:00am Mass & 10:00-11:30am –Senior Center*
- *Sunday, February 9, 2020- **Praying from the Heart** – Mrs. Grace Urbanski  
9:00 am Mass & 10:00-11:30am-Senior Center*
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### **Confirmation Rehearsal and Liturgy**

**Friday, March 13 at 7:00 pm and Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am**

*Sponsor/Proxy and Candidates expected to attend*

## **Sponsor/Candidate Meeting suggestions:**

You should plan to begin meeting with your candidate right away! By February 28, 2019, sponsors and candidates should have met at least four times. Please record meetings on the *Sponsor Record of Meetings* Form.

### **Sponsor/candidate meeting ideas:**

- Attend Mass at a Catholic Church together (go out for a meal afterwards)
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Attend a Reconciliation service
- Make and share dinner together
- Read Scripture together
- Do a service project together
- Discuss questions of the faith
- Discuss the Gifts of the Holy Spirit received at Confirmation

# Gifts of the Holy Spirit

**Wisdom**- the ability to see things as they truly are in an open-minded manner

·Who would be an example of a wise person?

**Understanding**- a heart that accepts, cares, listens, understands and forgives

·What situation might call for the gift of understanding?

·Name three people you with whom need to be more understanding

**Knowledge**- the ability to comprehend the truths of the universe

·What are your areas of strength, what do you feel you have a lot of knowledge about?

·What would you like to learn more about?

**Counsel**- the ability to make good and wise decisions

·What situations cause each of us to really use right judgment?

·Tell about a good or bad decision you made that has had long-range consequences.

**Courage**- the strength to do what is right in spite of challenges

·Who do you know who can always be counted on to stand up for their moral convictions?

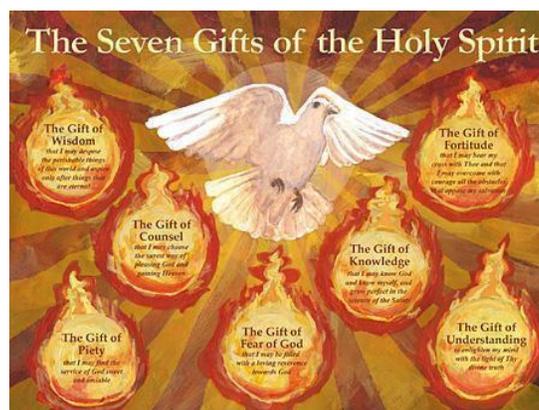
·Tell about a time when you did (or did not) stand up for yours.

**Piety**- a deep respect for God, for others and for all creation

·What are examples of Reverence when you think about family members?

**Fear of the Lord**- a sense of the greatness and majesty of God coupled with a deep realization of God's nearness

·Tell about a special event in your life (or in your family experience) that made you realize that God was present for you.



# Confirmation Sponsor Certificate

(due by December 1, 2019)

Confirmation Candidate Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor, please read and initial the following - I affirm that:

\_\_\_\_\_ I am at least 16 years old and am not the mother or father of the Confirmation candidate.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have received the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am a registered member of my parish. I regularly participate in Sunday Mass and give witness to my faith in Christ Jesus by regularly receiving the Eucharist. If/when possible, I will attend Sunday Masses with my candidate.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will participate in my parish community through giving my time, talent, and/or treasure.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will actively strive to live out my commitment to Christ and to the parish life of the Church by my interest, support and loving response to those I meet in daily life.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will give my support to the person I am sponsoring and to his/her parents by my prayers and by the example of my Catholic faith as practiced in my daily life.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will have one-on-one meetings with the Confirmation Candidate, at least four total, to discuss faith issues and/or questions arising from their formal studies and preparation for the sacrament.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will be present at the Confirmation rehearsal and celebration of Confirmation.

Signature of the Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**[PLEASE TURN OVER FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION]**

Statement of Parish Priest Certification:

(If sponsor is registered at St. Mary Visitation Parish, please return the form without a priest's signature and it will be given to Father Peter)

This is to certify that \_\_\_\_\_ (Name of sponsor) is to the best of my knowledge:

- A registered member of this parish
- A regular participant at Sunday Mass
- A Catholic in good standing according to the laws of the Church

Pastor's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parish \_\_\_\_\_

Parish address \_\_\_\_\_

Please affix Church Seal

Completed *Confirmation Sponsor Certificate* may be faxed, mailed or dropped off at parish office, or given to Co-Director of Catholic Formation by **December 1, 2019**.

St. Mary's Visitation Parish  
Attn: Elizabeth Harrison,  
Co-Director of Catholic Formation  
1260 Church Street  
Elm Grove, WI 53122

# Sponsor Record of Meetings 2019-2020

Candidate Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please keep a record of the times you and your candidate get together to discuss Confirmation. We ask that this be turned in with your *Recommendation of Candidate* letter which is due no later than **February 23, 2020**.

## Meeting #1

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Place: \_\_\_\_\_

What did you do? \_\_\_\_\_

Is there anything noteworthy about the candidate's progress toward confirmation?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Meeting #2

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Place: \_\_\_\_\_

What did you do? \_\_\_\_\_

Is there anything noteworthy about the candidate's progress toward confirmation?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Meeting #3

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Place: \_\_\_\_\_

What did you do? \_\_\_\_\_

Is there anything noteworthy about the candidate's progress toward confirmation?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Meeting #4

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Place: \_\_\_\_\_

What did you do? \_\_\_\_\_

Is there anything noteworthy about the candidate's progress toward confirmation?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# **Recommendation of Candidate by Sponsor 2019-2020**

Please write a short recommendation letter for your candidate. Please turn it in, along with the *Record of Meetings* form no later than **February 23, 2020**. You may include the following:

- Note the growth of faith and relationship with God of the candidate throughout his/her Confirmation year and any significant points of transformation.
- Affirm the gifts/talents that you see in the candidate that will help build up the Church and the Kingdom of God.
- State why you feel the candidate is ready for Confirmation.

Here is an example format for the Recommendation of Candidate letter:

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (sponsor's name) recommend  
\_\_\_\_\_ (candidate's name) for Confirmation. He/She has  
grown in their relationship with God in knowledge and love in this  
manner: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

He/She has also shown gifts/talents in the following ways:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ in furthering the kingdom of God and building up the Church. I  
consider him/her to be ready for Confirmation and open to all the Holy Spirit has for his/her  
life by virtue and example.

\_\_\_\_\_ (Your signature) Date: \_\_\_\_\_