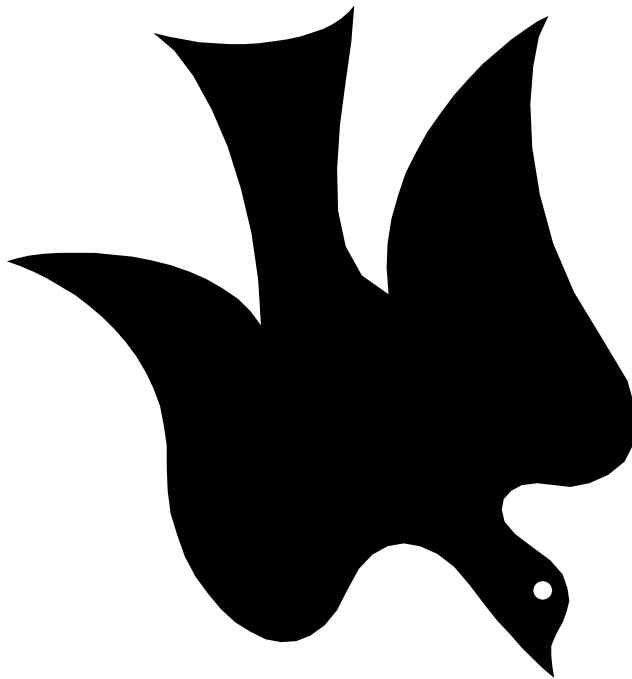


A PREPARATION GUIDE FOR

CONFIRMATION 2011



**A HANDBOOK FOR
STUDENTS AND PARENTS**

SHRINE OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT

3630 QUESADA STREET, N.W.

WASHINGTON, DC 20015

PHONE: (202) 449-3978

FAX: (202) 966-9255

OFFICE OF YOUTH MINISTRIES

MARK MCCAFFREY

MMCCAFFREY@BLESSEDSACRAMENTDC.ORG

WWW.BLESSEDSACRAMENTDC.ORG/SACRAMENTS/CONFIRMATION

CONFIRMATION 2011 PREPARATION BOOKLET

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CONFIRMATION 2011

PREPARATION GUIDE

UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF THE PASTOR, THE CANDIDATE'S "HOME PARISH" IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PREPARATION AND CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION.

WHO MAY BE CONFIRMED?

TO BE CONFIRMED, ONE MUST:

- BE A BAPTIZED PERSON WHO HAS NOT BEEN CONFIRMED, HAVE CELEBRATED HIS/HER TWELFTH BIRTHDAY, AND BE IN THE EIGHTH GRADE OR ABOVE.
- HAVE RECEIVED ROMAN CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION FROM GRADE 1, INCLUDING RELIGIOUS EDUCATION **DURING** THE LAST 2 YEARS PRIOR TO THE RECEPTION OF THE SACRAMENT, WITH AN ADEQUATE ATTENDANCE RECORD. NORMALLY, THIS WILL MEAN ENROLLMENT IN A PARISH SCHOOL OR A PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM, OR PRIVATE CATHOLIC SCHOOL WITH SUPPLEMENTAL PARISH PREPARATION.
- GIVE EVIDENCE OF KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF BEING A MEMBER OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, AS WELL AS SOME APPRECIATION OF SACRAMENTAL LIFE, **WITH A SINCERE DESIRE FOR THE SACRAMENT.**
- HAVE COMPLETED THE REQUIREMENTS AND MET THE DEADLINES AS OUTLINED IN THIS BOOK.

SPRING / SUMMER 2010

PARENTS AND CANDIDATES ARE ASKED TO READ THIS BOOKLET, AND ARRANGE FOR AN INTERVIEW WITH MARK MCCAFFREY BEGINNING MONDAY, MAY 24, 2010 AND ENDING BEFORE FRIDAY, JUNE 11, 2010.

USE THE FOLLOWING WEBSITE LINK TO SET UP YOUR INTERVIEW www.pickatime.com/client?ven=11603503.

INITIAL INTERVIEWS

THIS INITIAL INTERVIEW IS ONLY WITH THE CANDIDATE TO DISCUSS HOW THEY ARE LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE NOW, AND WHAT THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AS CANDIDATES WILL BE. THIS IS THE TIME FOR THE CANDIDATE TO INDICATE HIS/HER DESIRE TO BE PREPARED FOR THE SACRAMENT, AND TO HANDLE ANY INITIAL QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS.

THE INTERVIEWS FOR STUDENTS MAY BE SCHEDULED BY USING THE FOLLOWING LINK: www.pickatime.com/client?ven=11603503.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT SCHEDULING INTERVIEWS PLEASE CALL **ROSALIE DAYS, MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY, FROM 10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. AT **202-449-3973**. INTERVIEWS ARE HELD IN MARK MCCAFFREY'S OFFICE IN THE PARISH CENTER, ON THE GROUND FLOOR.**

THE CANDIDATE MUST BRING OR HAVE COMPLETED THE FOLLOWING ✓ ITEMS AT THE TIME OF THE INTERVIEW:

✓

LETTER OF INTENT

EACH CANDIDATE FOR CONFIRMATION WILL TYPE A LETTER OF INTENT, ADDRESSED TO THE **DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY, MR. MARK McCAFFREY**. AS YOU COMPOSE YOUR LETTER, PLEASE FOLLOW THIS FORMAT:

FIRST, PUT THE DATE IN THE TOP LEFT HAND CORNER OF THE LETTER. THEN LEAVING *TWO SPACES* BEGIN YOUR LETTER WITH THE GREETING:

DEAR MR. McCAFFREY,

1ST PARAGRAPH, INTRODUCE YOURSELF. TELL SOMETHING ABOUT YOU – YOUR HOBBIES, YOUR INTERESTS, YOUR FAMILY, SHARE A LITTLE BIT ABOUT YOUR BACKGROUND.

2ND/3RD PARAGRAPH, REQUEST THE SACRAMENT. WHY DO YOU WISH TO RECEIVE THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION? IN YOUR OWN WORDS, WRITE ONE OR TWO PARAGRAPHS GIVING SEVERAL REASONS WHY YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE CONFIRMED.

NEXT, PROVIDE A QUOTATION FROM ONE PASSAGE OF SCRIPTURE THAT WILL INSPIRE YOU THROUGHOUT THE PREPARATION PROCESS. THE QUOTATION CAN BE EITHER A SENTENCE OR A FEW SENTENCES. **EXPLAIN** HOW YOU FOUND THE PASSAGE AND WHY YOU CHOSE THIS PARTICULAR PASSAGE. BE SURE TO SITE YOUR PASSAGE BY NOTING THE BIBLICAL BOOK, CHAPTER AND VERSE. (I.E. MT 1:1-2)

FINALLY, DO NOT FORGET TO SIGN YOUR NAME AT THE BOTTOM OF THE LETTER

✓ **CONFIRMATION PLEDGE FORM COMPLETED AND SIGNED.**

(FORMS APPENDIX – ATTACHMENT #1)

✓ **ONLINE CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION:**

WWW.BLESSEDSACRAMENTDC.ORG/SACRAMENTS/CONFIRMATION/CONFIRMATION-ENROLLMENT-AND-PAYMENT-FORM/

✓ **PAYMENT OPTIONS FOR THE \$65.00 CONFIRMATION FEE:**

AT THE END OF THE ONLINE REGISTRATION YOU HAVE TWO OPTIONS TO PAY THE FEE:

- 1. ONLINE BY CREDIT CARD OR**
- 2. SEND IN PAYMENT TO THE BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH OFFICE, ATTENTION MARK McCAFFREY.**

THIS FEE COVERS MATERIALS FOR THE RETREAT, RECEPTIONS AND ROBES.

✓ **A COPY OF CANDIDATE'S BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE:**

(IF STUDENT WAS NOT BAPTIZED AT BLESSED SACRAMENT)

RITE OF ENROLLMENT MASS

AT THE 5:30 P.M. EVENING MASS ON PENTECOST SUNDAY, MAY 23, 2010, THE CANDIDATES WILL BE FORMALLY ENROLLED INTO THE PROGRAM AND COMMISSIONED TO DO THEIR SERVICE PROJECTS. DURING THIS INDUCTION SERVICE, THE CANDIDATES MAKE A COVENANT TO ENTER INTO A PROGRAM OF PREPARATION, WITH THE PARISH COMMUNITY AS WITNESS. ALL CANDIDATES AND PARENTS MUST ATTEND.

SPONSOR SELECTION

RESPONSIBILITIES AND ROLES

THE SPONSOR IS AN INVALUABLE ASSISTANT TO PARENTS IN TRANSMITTING THE FAITH. THE SPONSOR NEEDS TO BE ABLE TO FULFILL SEVERAL REQUIREMENTS.

- THE CHURCH REQUIRES THE SPONSOR BE AN ACTIVE, PRACTICING CATHOLIC WHO ATTENDS SUNDAY MASS ON REGULAR BASIS AND HAS ALREADY CELEBRATED THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION. THE CHURCH RECOGNIZES THAT A PERSON CANNOT TRANSMIT WHAT THE PERSON DOES NOT HAVE.

- IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE SPONSOR BE MATURE, MORE INFORMED, AND EXPERIENCED IN THE WAYS OF OUR FAITH AND CULTURE THAN THE CANDIDATE IS. HE OR SHE SHOULD STRIVE TO BE AN EXAMPLE OF WHOLESOME CHRISTIAN LIVING AND EMBRACE THE MORAL TEACHINGS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

- THE SPONSOR SHOULD BE A PERSON WHO ALREADY HAS A TRUSTING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CANDIDATE, AN OLDER FRIEND, OR RELATIVE IN WHOM THE CANDIDATE CAN CONFIDE.

- IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE SPONSOR BE AN OLDER PERSON WHO HAS SOME EXPERIENCE WITH HIS OR HER FAITH AND, HENCE, A CLEARER PERSPECTIVE FROM WHICH TO SPEAK.

- THE SPONSOR NEEDS TO BE WILLING TO MEET WITH THE CANDIDATE ON A REGULAR BASIS PRIOR TO THE CELEBRATION OF CONFIRMATION AND TO MAKE A COMMITMENT TO CONTINUE THE FAITH JOURNEY AFTER THE CELEBRATION OF CONFIRMATION.

- ❑ THE SPONSOR (NOT MORE THAN ONE) CAN BE MALE OR FEMALE AND AT LEAST 16 YEARS OF AGE.
- ❑ THE SPONSOR IS ONE WHO IS WILLING TO SHARE HIS OR HER FAITH WITH THE CANDIDATE.
- ❑ THE SPONSOR IS AN ASSISTANT TO THE PARENTS AS THE PRIME TRANSMITTER OF THE FAITH.
- ❑ THE SPONSOR IS TO “WALK AND TALK” WITH THE CANDIDATE ON THE FAITH JOURNEY.
- ❑ THE SPONSOR NEEDS TO BE AN OPEN, HONEST, CARING, COMMITTED, AND ENCOURAGING PERSON WHO WILL HELP THE CANDIDATE GROW IN HIS OR HER UNDERSTANDING OF THE FAITH AS THE YOUNG PERSON COMES TO A DEEPER APPRECIATION OF GOD IN HIS OR HER LIFE.

PARENTS CANNOT BE SPONSORS SINCE THEY ARE ALREADY RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR CHILDREN’S SPIRITUAL GROWTH. SPONSORS ARE THERE TO HELP THE PARENTS.

IF FOR SOME REASON, YOU ARE USING A PROXY SPONSOR, THAT PERSON ALSO HAS TO BE CERTIFIED FROM THEIR PARISH AS A PRACTICING CATHOLIC.

IN THIS BOOKLET, YOU HAVE RECEIVED A ***SPONSOR CERTIFICATION FORM*** (***FORMS APPENDIX – ATTACHMENT # 2***).

THE SPONSOR NEEDS TO HAVE THE FORM SIGNED BY THEIR PARISH’S PASTOR, CERTIFYING THAT THEY ARE PRACTICING CATHOLICS. IF THE SPONSOR’S CHURCH IS OUT OF TOWN, IT OFTEN TAKES TIME TO OBTAIN CERTIFICATION, SO IT IS ADVISABLE THAT YOU GET THE FORM PROCESSED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THIS FORM IS DUE IN THE YOUTH MINISTRY OFFICE BY THE RETREAT DAY ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH OR THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2010.

YOUR CONFIRMATION NAME

ALMOST EVERYONE HAS TWO NAMES: A FIRST NAME AND A LAST NAME. YOUR FIRST NAME TELLS OTHERS WHO YOU ARE. YOUR LAST NAME TELLS OTHERS WHAT FAMILY YOU BELONG TO.

NAMES ARE A SIGN OF POWER. WHEN YOU WERE BAPTIZED, ALL SIN WAS FORGIVEN *IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, OF THE SON, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT*. YOU WERE GIVEN A “CHRISTIAN” NAME—THE NAME OF ONE OF THE SAINTS OR HEROES OF THE BIBLE, FOR EXAMPLE, WHO BECAME YOUR “PATRON.” YOU CAN FIND MANY EXAMPLES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT OF THE APOSTLES’ CURING AND FORGIVING IN THE NAME OF JESUS. AND YOU PROBABLY REMEMBER BIBLE STORIES IN WHICH A PERSON’S NAME WAS CHANGED TO SHOW THAT HE OR SHE HAD ENTERED INTO A NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

YOUR CONFIRMATION IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO ENTER INTO A DEEPER RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND WITH THE CHURCH. ONE CONFIRMATION CUSTOM IS TO CHOOSE A NEW NAME TO SYMBOLIZE THIS RELATIONSHIP. THIS “CONFIRMATION NAME” IS USED IN THE CEREMONY. YOU MAY EVEN CHOOSE YOUR BAPTISMAL NAME, IF YOU LIKE, BECAUSE THERE IS A CLOSE CONNECTION BETWEEN BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION.

PICK A SAINT’S NAME THAT WOULD SYMBOLIZE A NEW BEGINNING IN YOUR FAITH LIFE AND A CONNECTION WITH THAT PARTICULAR SAINT.

THIS WOULD BE ESPECIALLY TRUE IF YOU FELT THAT YOU HAVE NOT BEEN PARTICULARLY STRONG IN YOUR FAITH AND ARE NOW MAKING A RENEWED COMMITMENT TO YOUR FAITH. YOUR COMMITMENT WOULD BE SYMBOLIZED WITH THE TAKING OF A NEW NAME TO SHOW THAT YOU ARE IN SOME WAYS NOW A NEW PERSON. THIS NEW NAME WOULD BE USED AFTER YOUR PRESENT MIDDLE NAME AND BEFORE YOUR FAMILY NAME.

THE PARTICULAR SAINT'S NAME CHOSEN WILL REPRESENT THE DIRECTION YOU FEEL YOUR FAITH LIFE IS TAKING, OR WILL REPRESENT A STRENGTH OR ATTRIBUTE YOU FEEL YOU NEED. IT IS IMPORTANT AND NECESSARY TO LEARN SOMETHING ABOUT THE SAINT YOU CHOOSE BEFORE YOU DECIDE ON THAT NAME. THIS OPTION OF TAKING A NEW NAME IS NOT TO BE USED BECAUSE YOU LIKE THE SOUND OF THE NAME, HOW IT FITS WITH YOUR OTHER NAMES, NOR BECAUSE IT IS THE NAME OF A NICE FRIEND OR RELATIVE.

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS. TALK OVER YOUR ANSWERS WITH YOUR FAMILY, AND USE REFERENCE BOOKS IF NECESSARY.

1. **WHAT IS YOUR COMPLETE BAPTISMAL NAME?**
2. **WHY DID YOUR PARENTS GIVE YOU THESE NAMES?**
3. **WHAT DO THESE NAMES MEAN?**
4. **WHAT NAME DO YOU LIKE YOUR FRIENDS TO CALL YOU? WHY?**
5. **WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR CONFIRMATION NAME TO BE?**
6. **WHY WOULD YOU LIKE THIS NAME?**
7. **WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU?**

CONFIRMATION SAINT NAME PROJECT

IN THE FORMS APPENDIX (ATTACHMENT #3) OF THIS HANDBOOK, YOU WILL FIND A FORM THAT ASKS YOU TO RESEARCH YOUR PATRON SAINT FOR CONFIRMATION. ASK THIS SAINT TO BE YOUR PATRON/PATRONESS TO HELP YOU PREPARE TO RECEIVE THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION, AND AFTERWARDS TO BE YOUR HELPMATE IN YOUR CHRISTIAN JOURNEY. YOU CAN HONOR THIS SAINT THROUGH PRAYER AND MEDITATION. YOU MAY CHOOSE YOUR BAPTISMAL NAME SAINT AS YOUR CONFIRMATION NAME SAINT. THE SAINT'S NAME PROJECT IS DUE WHEN YOU ATTEND THE MANDATORY CONFIRMATION RETREAT DAY ON NOVEMBER 16 OR 18, 2010. ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE ARE SOME HELPFUL WEB SITES TO ASSIST YOU IN YOUR RESEARCH:

WWW.CATHOLICFORUM.COM

WWW.NEWADVENT.ORG

WWW.CATHOLIC.ORG/SAINTS

WWW.CATHOLIC-PAGES.COM

WWW.AMERICANCATHOLIC.ORG/FEATURES/SAINTS

FALL 2010

IN THE FALL, THE CONFIRMATION CLASS WILL BE DIVIDED INTO TWO GROUPS, GROUP I AND GROUP II; YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED WHICH GROUP YOU ARE PLACED IN BY OCTOBER. THERE WILL BE A ONE DAY CONFIRMATION RETREAT. **ALL CANDIDATES ARE *REQUIRED* TO MAKE THE RETREAT WITH THEIR ASSIGNED GROUP ON EITHER TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16 (GROUP I) OR THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18 (GROUP II).**

THE RETREATS TAKE PLACE ON A WEEKDAY FROM 8:00 A.M. UNTIL 4:00 P.M. AND EVERY STUDENT NEEDS TO BE EXCUSED FROM THEIR RESPECTIVE SCHOOL FOR THAT PARTICULAR DAY. MORE INFORMATION WILL BE FORTHCOMING.

ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH AT THE 5:30 P.M. EVENING MASS, CANDIDATES RECEIVE A BLESSING PRIOR TO ATTENDING THE RETREAT AND ARE REMINDED THAT THEY BEAR A RESPONSIBILITY TO SPREAD THE WORD OF GOD. ALL CANDIDATES AND PARENTS MUST ATTEND.

WINTER 2011

LETTER TO THE PASTOR

BEFORE THE CELEBRATION OF CONFIRMATION, THE PASTOR IS REQUIRED BY CANON LAW TO KNOW THAT CANDIDATES HAVE BEEN PROPERLY PREPARED. HE SHOULD ALSO KNOW THAT YOU HAVE A DESIRE FOR AND KNOWLEDGE OF THE SACRAMENT.

TO HELP YOUR PASTOR MEET HIS RESPONSIBILITY, WE ASK YOU TO TYPE A FORMAL LETTER TO HIM. THE LETTER IS TO ADDRESS THREE BASIC QUESTIONS.

THE FIRST QUESTION IS, “WHAT DOES THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION MEAN TO YOU?” IN YOUR OWN WORDS, WRITE ONE OR TWO PARAGRAPHS EXPLAINING WHAT THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION MEANS TO YOU.

THE SECOND QUESTION IS, “WHY DO YOU FEEL YOU ARE READY TO CELEBRATE THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION?” AGAIN, IN YOUR OWN WORDS, YOU ARE TO STATE IN TWO OR THREE PARAGRAPHS WHY YOU FEEL YOU ARE READY TO CELEBRATE THIS SACRAMENT. HE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO HEAR WHAT YOU DID TO FULFILL YOUR COMMUNITY SERVICE AND WHAT YOU LEARNED FROM THIS EXPERIENCE.

THE THIRD QUESTION IS, “HOW DO YOU THINK CONFIRMATION COULD STRENGTHEN YOUR ROLE IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH?” IN OTHER WORDS, HOW IS THIS SACRAMENT BETTER ABLE TO CONNECT YOU TO THE LIFE OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH? THROUGH PRAYER? THROUGH SERVICE? THROUGH FAMILY?

THESE LETTERS SHOULD BE *AT LEAST* THREE PARAGRAPHS IN LENGTH AND SHOULD ALSO INCLUDE THE DATE, A SALUTATION (I.E. DEAR FR. JOHN) AND BE SIGNED BY THE CANDIDATE. LETTERS ARE **DUE IN THE YOUTH MINISTRY OFFICE BY FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11 2011.**

CONFIRMATION EXAM

THE PURPOSE OF THE CONFIRMATION EXAM IS TO ASSESS YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF BASIC CATHOLIC TEACHINGS, AS WELL TO PREPARE YOU FOR QUESTIONING BY THE BISHOP ON CONFIRMATION DAY. THEREFORE, THE MOST INTEGRAL PART OF THE EXAM WILL TREAT MATERIAL PERTAINING TO THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION.

THE INFORMATION YOU NEED TO STUDY CAN BE FOUND IN THE APPENDIX OF THIS PREPARATION BOOKLET.

THE EXAM WILL TAKE PLACE ON MARCH 20TH AND 22ND, 2011 FOR SCHOOL OF RELIGION AND PRIVATE SCHOOL STUDENTS AND MARCH 21TH FOR BLESSED SACRAMENT SCHOOL STUDENTS. THE TEST WILL CONSIST OF OBJECTIVE TYPE QUESTIONS (MULTIPLE CHOICE, TRUE/FALSE, MATCHING, AND FILL-IN-THE BLANK. **THE PASSING GRADE IS 80% OR HIGHER. IF YOU DO NOT PASS THE EXAM, YOU WILL BE SCHEDULED TO RETAKE IT AT A LATER DATE. YOU MUST PASS THE EXAM TO SUCCESSFULLY FULFILL THE REQUIREMENTS FOR CONFIRMATION.** SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS ARE AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS WITH A DOCUMENTED LEARNING DISABILITY, IN NEED OF EXTRA TIME OR DISTRACTION-REDUCED ENVIRONMENT. PLEASE CONTACT **MARK McCAFFREY, DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY, AT (202) 449-3978** IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

INTERVIEW WITH A MEMBER OF THE CLERGY

THESE INTERVIEWS WILL TAKE PLACE BETWEEN **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH, 2011 AND FRIDAY, MARCH 18TH, 2011.** THE PURPOSE OF THE INTERVIEW WITH ONE OF OUR PARISH PRIESTS IS TO ASCERTAIN THE WILLINGNESS AND THE READINESS OF THE CANDIDATE TO RECEIVE THE

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION. IT IS A CONVERSATION IN WHICH THE CANDIDATE MAY ASK ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS, IN A ONE-TO-ONE SETTING AT THE PARISH CENTER. THE INTERVIEWS WILL BE SCHEDULED ONLINE AND THAT WEBSITE ADDRESS WILL BE GIVEN OUT IN EARLY FEBRUARY. PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE PRIESTS DIRECTLY.

SERVICE PROJECTS

AFTER THE RITE OF ENROLLMENT MASS, AT 5:30 P.M. ON SUNDAY, MAY 23RD, 2010, THE CANDIDATES ARE TO START THEIR COMMUNITY SERVICE. AS THEY PREPARE FOR CONFIRMATION THEY WILL WANT TO USE THEIR GIFTS TO SERVE OTHERS. THEIR ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS WILL INDICATE HOW THEY ARE GROWING IN THEIR LOVE FOR CHRIST. CHRISTIAN SERVICE SHOULD REACH OUT BEYOND THE FAMILY CIRCLE TO THE LARGER COMMUNITY. WITH THAT IN MIND, WE REQUIRE A MINIMUM OF TWENTY HOURS OF SERVICE BE COMPLETED BY FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2011.

IT IS HIGHLY RECOMMEND, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, THAT THE SERVICE BEGIN OVER THE SUMMER SO AS NOT TO HAVE ANYONE SCRAMBLING WEEKS BEFORE CONFIRMATION.

WE WANT THE SERVICE TO BE FULFILLED THROUGH TWO OR MORE DISTINCT SERVICE SITES. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOUR CHOICE OF A CHRISTIAN SERVICE PROJECT BE SOMETHING SPECIFIC AND PRACTICAL THAT YOU CAN DO FOR OTHERS. THAT IT INVOLVES USING YOUR SKILLS AND TALENTS TO MEET A REAL NEED IN THE PARISH OR THE NEIGHBORHOOD; AND THAT IT IS SOMETHING YOU GIVE TIME AND EFFORT TO OUTSIDE YOUR EVERYDAY RESPONSIBILITIES.

SOME POINTS TO THINK ABOUT WHEN PLANNING YOUR SERVICE REQUIREMENTS. THINK ABOUT PEOPLE'S NEEDS, PROBLEMS, AND FEARS. ASK YOURSELF WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP. WHO NEEDS TIME, EFFORT, SERVICE AND LOVE FROM YOU? WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SHARE? MAKE SPECIFIC PLANS AHEAD OF TIME AND CARRY OUT YOUR PROJECT ON A REGULAR BASIS. KEEP YOUR AGREEMENTS WITH PARTICULAR ORGANIZATIONS AND WITH THOSE YOU SERVE; BE THERE WHEN YOU SAY YOU WILL BE. WHEN YOUR PROJECT IS COMPLETED, YOU MIGHT LOOK BACK OVER YOUR EXPERIENCE AND INVESTIGATE OTHER WAYS YOU CAN CONTINUE TO BE OF SERVICE, TO YOUR PARISH AND YOUR COMMUNITY AFTER YOUR CONFIRMATION.

IN THIS BOOKLET, YOU HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED YOUR SERVICE PROJECT FORM THAT YOU SHOULD SUBMIT TO OUR OFFICE BY FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2011, DESCRIBING YOUR SERVICE AND HOW YOU BENEFITED FROM THIS OUTREACH.

(FORMS APPENDIX – ATTACHMENT # 4)

IF YOU ARE NOT SURE IF A PARTICULAR PROJECT QUALIFIES, CALL THE OFFICE AND CLARIFY. DO NOT BE CAUGHT IN A SITUATION WHERE YOUR SERVICE FORM DOES NOT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS AND YOU HAVE LITTLE TIME LEFT TO FULFILL YOUR REQUIREMENT.

PLEASE FIND A LIST OF APPROVED SERVICE PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE NEXT SECTION OF THIS HANDBOOK, THESE ARE ONLY SUGGESTIONS. PLEASE NOTE THAT MANY OF THESE PROGRAMS REQUIRE ADULT SUPERVISION SO ALWAYS CALL AHEAD TO ARRANGE WORK.

SERVICE PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES

- **SCHOOL OF RELIGION TEACHER'S AID.** Assist in Religious Education classes on Tuesday afternoons or Sunday mornings. Since this is a weekly commitment from the fall to the spring, this service fulfills **all** of your community service commitment. Contact Director of Religious Education, at 202-449-3989.

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- **5:30 PM MASS CHOIR.** Lend your voice (or other musical talent) to the 5:30 PM Sunday Mass Choir. Fulfill your Sunday Mass obligation and earn service hours for it! The choir meets weekly on Sundays at 4:15 PM in the Parish Center to prepare for that day's Mass. Since this is a weekly commitment from the fall through the spring, this fulfills **all** your community service hours. Participants are encouraged to join by Sunday, September 28 and must continue through May 17. Contact Ginny Curtin, Director, at (202) 686-7058 or gucurtin@gmail.com.

- **10:15 GYM MASS CHILDRENS LITURGY OF THE WORD.** Fulfill your Sunday Mass obligation, earn service hours, and have fun being a role model for others by helping create a more meaningful worship experience for our youngest parishioners. The Children's Liturgy of the Word meets approximately twice a month over the school-year during the 10:15 Gym Mass. Children are guided out of Mass to experience the Children's Liturgy, which includes modified versions of the Sunday readings and Gospel, a homily discussion and/or activity, and a modified version of the Creed. Requirements include: 1) attending one 60 minute training session (TBD) in the beginning of the year, 2) arriving 30 minutes before Mass for set-up and planning (9:45 a.m.) and 3) spending 20 minutes to review the week's Gospel and homily activity. Since this is a biweekly commitment from the fall through the spring, this fulfills **all** your community service hours. Contact Suzanne Ritter at (202) 244-1018 or sritter@outcomeadvisors.com

- **ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR.** The Holiday Bazaar is a long standing Blessed Sacrament tradition started by the parish's Sodality to the Blessed Mother in order to raises funds for the Sodality's charitable work. This year the Bazaar will take place on Saturday, November 15 from 9 AM – 4 PM. Volunteers are needed to help with moving tables, work kid's games, serve coffee, help with the women's' clothes and the White Elephant. Contact Alta Asmar at (301) 961-5956 or altaasmar@aol.com.
- **BSS CANTORING.** A unique opportunity for Blessed Sacrament School students which permits students to lend their voices to school liturgies and other BSS events. This program fulfills ***10 hours (half)*** of your community service. Contact Brigid Forcey for more information.
- **PARISH LANDSCAPING.** A great way to get service started this summer, come out to Blessed Sacrament and help maintain the parish grounds. Contact Ms. Cleo Tavani, a Blessed Sacrament parishioner, at 301-656-7131.
- **GREG GANNON CANNED FOOD DRIVE PREP.** A yearly tradition, the Food Drive collects donations from surrounding neighborhoods to benefit the hungry in our area. Lots prep work is need to pull off this event. Bag prep and distribution will take place the weekends of Nov 21-23 and Nov. 28-30. To help contact Pat Kavanaugh, Social Concerns Minister, at 202-449-3987 or pkavanaugh@blessedsacramentdc.org.
- **LIBRARIAN'S AID.** Assist the Parish Librarian in the Parish Center Library. Contact Ellen Roth at 202-449-3974 or rothe@blessedsacramentdc.org
- **FACILITIES AID.** Help maintain parish grounds and facilities. Contact Marty Lagoy at 202-449-4610 or mlagoy@blessedsacramentdc.org.

- **CHEVY CHASE HOUSE.** 5420 Connecticut Avenue, NW. A great way to say, “I CARE” is to assist with recreational activities (bingo, play board games), play the piano or other musical instruments. This is an elderly assisted living and nursing home. Please contact the Activities Director, Shelley Clayton, for more information at 202-686-5504.

- **FATHER MCKENNA CENTER.** North Capitol and I Street, NW. Help prepare and serve meal to the homeless. Contact Ronald Rodgers 202-842-1112 or ronaldrodgers4@yahoo.com.

- **MARTHA’S TABLE, INC.** 2124 14th Street, NW. Volunteers help in the Day Care Center by serving food, playing games and organizing activities. Contact: Kim Lyons or Crystal White 202-328-6608.

- **McKENNA’S WAGON.** 2124 14th Street, NW. Team of up to twenty can spend a part of a Saturday making sandwiches with the staff. A good family project is to make sandwiches at home and deliver to shelter. You may also go out on the wagon with adult supervision. Contact Kim Lyons or Crystal White: 202-328-6608.

- **SO OTHERS MIGHT EAT.** 710 O Street, NW. Team members will serve food they have prepared. This is a good summer project as you are free to go during the week. Contact: 202-797-7155.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- **BLESSED SACRAMENT YOUTH MINISTRY OFFICE.** Contact the Youth Minister at 202-449-3987 for numerous service opportunities.

SPRING 2011

RITE OF CONFIRMATION

WE WILL BE NOTIFIED BY THE ARCHDIOCESE OF THE ACTUAL CONFIRMATION DATES DURING THE WINTER. ONCE WE HAVE THE CONFIRMATION DATE AND TIME SET, WE WILL BE ABLE TO INFORM YOU OF THE FINAL GROUPS AND REHEARSAL DATES.

THE WEEK BEFORE CONFIRMATION ON TUESDAY NIGHT, GROUP I WILL HAVE A REHEARSAL AND ON THURSDAY NIGHT, GROUP II WILL HAVE A REHEARSAL. THESE REHEARSALS ARE MANDATORY AND THE SPONSORS MUST BE IN ATTENDANCE.

ON THE DAY OF CONFIRMATION, IT IS STANDARD PRACTICE IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON FOR THE BISHOP TO RANDOMLY ASK QUESTIONS OF THE CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES ON SOME BASIC AREA RELATED TO CATHOLICISM AND/OR THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION. WHILE EACH BISHOP VARIES AS TO WHETHER OR NOT HE WILL FOLLOW THIS PRACTICE, STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO REVIEW THEIR CONFIRMATION APPENDIX FROM THE CONFIRMATION EXAM. THE MATERIAL THEY STUDIED FOR THE EXAM WILL SUIT THEM WELL IF THEY ARE ASKED A QUESTION.

CONFIRMATION PAPERWORK CHECKLIST

THIS IS A WAY FOR YOU TO KEEP TRACK OF ALL OF THE REQUIRED PAPERWORK AND WHEN IT IS DUE. PLEASE POST IT ON YOUR REFRIGERATOR OR IN SOME VISIBLE PLACE IN YOUR HOME.

DUE AT THE INITIAL CONFIRMATION INTERVIEW

- LETTER OF INTENT
- CONFIRMATION PLEDGE FORM (FORMS APPENDIX – ATTACHMENT # 1)
- CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION ONLINE
- \$65.00 FEE PAID TO BLESSED SACRAMENT (ONLINE OR SENT IN)
- PHOTOCOPY OF BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE
(IF STUDENT WAS NOT BAPTIZED AT BLESSED SACRAMENT)

DUE ON RETREAT DAY – NOVEMBER 16 OR 18, 2010

- SPONSOR CERTIFICATION FORM (FORMS APPENDIX – ATTACHMENT # 2)
(SIGNED AND COMPLETE WITH PARISH SEAL)
- CONFIRMATION SAINT PROJECT FORM
(FORMS APPENDIX – ATTACHMENT # 3)

DUE FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2011

- LETTER TO PASTOR
- SERVICE PROJECT FORM (FORMS APPENDIX – ATTACHMENT # 4)

Forms Appendix – Attachment # 1

CONFIRMATION PLEDGE FORM

BLESSED SACRAMENT ❖ YOUTH MINISTRY OFFICE
3630 Quesada Street, NW ❖ Washington, DC 20015

PLEASE BRING COMPLETED TO INITIAL INTERVIEW

STUDENT'S NAME: _____

The Confirmation process is a year-long journey in which the Candidate is invited to expand his/her faith through prayer, service, self reflection and deeper understanding of the Church's teachings. This process necessitates a full commitment from the Candidate, Parents/Guardians and Sponsors as this Sacrament looks to examination of one's faith and participation in the life of the Church.

Candidate Pledge:

- ❖ I have read the Confirmation booklet and understand the requirements expected of me.
- ❖ It is my choice to enter into this year of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- ❖ I will fulfill the requirements set forth in the Handbook and will seek to allow the Holy Spirit to work in me through this period of preparation.

Candidate's Signature: _____

For the Parent/Guardian to sign:

I have read the Confirmation booklet and I recognize that my involvement as a parent is of special importance in preparing my child to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. Therefore, I ...

- Promise to do my best to help my child fulfill the requirements.
- Will pray for my child, and through my example will witness to the faith of the Church.
- I will help my child further his/her education in the Catholic faith after being confirmed.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Forms Appendix – Attachment # 2

SPONSOR CERTIFICATION FORM

DUE ON RETREAT DAY - NOVEMBER 16 OR 18, 2010

Candidate's Name: _____
(PLEASE PRINT)

CANDIDATE'S INVITATION

As I begin my journey in preparation for Confirmation, I invite you to become my Sponsor, knowing that you'll be a friend and spiritual guide.

SPONSOR'S PLEDGE

I pledge that I am a practicing Catholic in good standing at

Parish Name

- ◆ Have been Baptized and Confirmed
- ◆ Practice fulfilling my Sunday Mass obligation on a regular basis
- ◆ Live in a manner that is in accord with the moral teachings of the Church

After prayerful consideration, I am willing and eager to guide this candidate. I realize my life must be a testimony of my commitment to the Lord and to the Church. If it becomes necessary, I will be responsible for the further religious education of the candidate.

Sponsor's Name: _____
(PLEASE PRINT)

Sponsor's Signature: _____

PASTOR'S CERTIFICATION

I certify that this person is an active member of the Roman Catholic Church in good standing, and not bound by any canonical penalty, and is thereby eligible to be a sponsor for Confirmation.

Parish Name: _____

Parish Seal

Pastor's Signature: _____

The Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament,
3630 Quesada Street, NW
Washington, DC 20015
Fax Number (202) 966-9255

Forms Appendix – Attachment # 3

CONFIRMATION SAINT NAME REPORT

DUE ON RETREAT DAY – November 16 OR 18, 2010

Student's Name: _____

The Saint I choose to pray to and imitate and whose name I have chosen for the Sacrament of Confirmation is _____.

What is your saint's feast day in the Church? _____

What three events in the life of this saint most impress you? Why?

1.

2.

3.

Describe one outstanding virtue (a virtue is a good habit that enables a person to act with moral excellence, according to God's will) that characterizes this saint's life. How did this saint exercise this virtue? Include a brief story.

CONTINUE ON TO THE NEXT PAGE

In what two ways was this saint most like Jesus? Explain.

How could you follow this saint's example in your daily life today? Be specific. Give 3 examples.

1.

2.

3.

Why did you choose this Confirmation name?

Find a prayer to your saint, and copy it here. Pray it often.

STUDENT REFLECTION

Think about your one of your service projects and respond to the following questions in a written reflection below.

- Briefly describe your project and why you chose it.

- What did you learn about yourself as a result of this experience?

- Read Matthew 25:14-30. Based on your experience, what does this passage teach us about the importance of service in the life of every Catholic Christian?
