

# Confirmation Letter to the Bishop



This spring Bishop Michael Martin will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation with you at St Luke's (in-person or by delegation). **Bishop Martin asks that you write a letter to introduce yourself, share about your growing faith, and request the Sacrament of Confirmation.** So you can get to know him a little, below is a brief biography of his!

Bishop Michael T. Martin, OFM Conv., was born on Dec. 2, 1961, in Baltimore, Maryland, the only boy of four children in a Catholic family whose faith was an integral part of their lives.

He attended Archbishop Curley High School in Baltimore, where he would later return to work. In 1979, when he was 17, he entered the Conventual Franciscan Friars Novitiate in Ellicott City, Maryland. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in philosophy from St. Hyacinth College-Seminary (Massachusetts), earned a Bachelor of Sacred Theology from the Pontifical University of St. Bonaventure (Rome), and received a master's degree in education from Boston College.

He worked as a religious studies teacher and coach at St. Francis High School in Athol Springs, New York, in 1984-1985, then served as a transitional deacon at St. Adalbert Parish in Elmhurst, New York, in 1988-1989.

He was ordained to the priesthood on June 10, 1989, by then Auxiliary Bishop John Ricard of the Archdiocese of Baltimore. Following ordination, he returned to St. Francis High School to serve as admissions director and as a teacher and coach, from 1989 to 1994. He then served in several positions at his alma mater Archbishop Curley High School from 1994 to 2010 – including president, principal, admissions director, and teacher and basketball coach.

In 2007 he was the recipient of the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice award from then-Pope Benedict XVI for his service to the Church.

He is no stranger to North Carolina, having served as director of the Duke Catholic Center – the official Catholic community at Duke University in Durham – from 2010 to 2022.

He has also held a number of leadership positions in the Church, particularly in Catholic education. He has served on multiple Catholic school boards including Cardinal Gibbons High School in Raleigh, and worked with Partners in Mission, a Boston-based consulting firm that partners with Catholic schools and institutions to advance the mission of Catholic education.

In 2022, his order assigned him to ministry in the Archdiocese of Atlanta, where he served as pastor of St. Philip Benizi Parish in Jonesboro, Georgia, until his episcopal appointment by Pope Francis on April 9, 2024.

On May 29, 2024, he was ordained to the episcopate by the Most Rev. Gregory J. Hartmayer, OFM Conv., Archbishop of Atlanta, and on May 30, 2024, he was installed as the fifth Bishop of Charlotte, succeeding the Most Rev. Peter J. Jugis.

# Bishop Letter Guidelines

Second Year Confirmation candidates are asked to write a letter to the Bishop requesting the Sacrament and sharing their journey.

The format of this letter should look something like this:

## **Introduction:**

A letter addressed to the bishop should start with, “Your Excellency,”

## **Paragraph 1: Tell about you.**

- Write about your family – do you have siblings? Who lives with you? Where do you come from?
- Share your background – how old are you, what school you go to, your favorite subjects, activities you participate in, hobbies, etc.
- You can include any future plans you might have – a major you might like to pursue at school, or a job you might like to have as an adult.

## **Paragraph 2: Share your faith journey and preparation for the Sacrament.**

- This paragraph should include a bit about your faith journey thus far. What is your relationship with God like right now? How did you come to this relationship? What is your favorite way to pray, or is it a struggle to find prayer time throughout your week? In what areas could you continue to grow in your faith, and how could you better your relationship with God and or the Catholic community? Feel free to go beyond basic answers to these questions and share more about your faith journey and relationship with the Lord.
- Tell about the specific parts of becoming prepared for Confirmation – your prayer life, celebrating the other Sacraments, your relationship and journeying with your sponsor, and your lived faith through service to your community, family, and parish.
- How has your faith grown, especially in these last two years? What questions have you had answered?

## **Paragraph 3: Explain how you hope to keep your faith alive after Confirmation.**

- Tell how you will continue to carry out your life of service to God and others through the power of the Holy Spirit. How do you hope to keep learning about your faith? In what ways do you want to get involved in the parish and our ministries?
- What gifts of the Holy Spirit are you most looking forward to receiving? What fruits do you hope come from your Sacrament?

## **Paragraph 4: Request the Sacrament and give your intent.**

- Tell the Bishop *why* you want to celebrate the Sacrament. Give reasons why you would like to be confirmed. You can finish your letter with any prayer requests you might want the Bishop to pray for.

## **Conclusion:**

You should sign your letter with,  
“Sincerely,  
(Full name)”

Or something similarly respectful.

**Letters must be turned into the office/at class in an envelope or emailed to  
KristenTarantino@stlukecatholicminthill.org –or– Katyde\_ath@stlukecatholicminthill.org  
no later than January 28th.**