



Saint Mary's Basilica

Franciscan Friars

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Dear Confirmation Candidate:

Many years ago, probably when you were a tiny baby, your family gathered at the church to celebrate your baptism. The ceremony opened with the priest or deacon asking your parents, “What do you ask of God’s church for your child?” The answer was a single word: “Faith.”

Faith is a gift—a gift that comes to you from God through the church and through the living community of Christians—your family and parish. But like any other gift, faith must be accepted if it is to be truly yours. When you were baptized, your parents and the parish community accepted the gift of faith in your name. They also promised to form you in the faith—to help you to understand and appreciate the gift—so that someday you would be able and willing to accept it for yourself.

Our Confirmation program is designed to help you to accept, to ratify, to confirm the faith in which you were baptized. It is important to distinguish here between two very different but interconnected occurrences:

1. the faith-confirming process, which last a whole lifetime;
2. the celebration of that process in the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Our sessions are concerned primarily with the faith-confirming process. The aim of our sessions is to help those who participate in it to deepen their personal relationship with God, to develop a sense of belonging in a living Christian community, and to personally ratify their membership in the Catholic Church.

It is assumed that the process of confirming the faith has been going on in your life for many years, and that it will continue in a renewed way long after you have celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation. What our sessions provide for you is an intensive faith-confirming experience that brings the lifelong process into sharper focus and prepares you to celebrate that lifelong process in the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Peace and All Good,
Bro. Scott Slattum, OFM
Director of Faith Development