

(Date)

Most Revered Michael Fisher
c/o St. Raphael Religious Education Office

Your Excellency,

My name is Joseph A. Kennedy. I am 14 years old, and I attend Robert Frost Middle School; I am in the eighth grade. My family and I have lived in Potomac, Maryland for all of my life, and we have been parishioners at St. Raphael Catholic Church since my Baptism there almost 14 years ago.

I am writing to you to request the Sacrament of Confirmation. I would like to receive the sacrament because I want to be able to defend my faith. Sometimes people make unkind comments about Catholics. I want them to know that everyone makes mistakes and everyone sins. What counts is asking God for forgiveness and trying to be the best you can be, the way Jesus showed us how to live. I also desire to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation because I want to have a deeper relationship with God.

I have taken my preparation for receiving the sacrament very seriously. I have completed the assignments given to us with a genuine interest of learning more about my faith. I am trying to nurture my prayer life with practice, especially during this season of Lent, when prayer is so important. I receive the Eucharist every Sunday when I attend Mass, and I receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation regularly. This is important to me because I very much desire to become more like Jesus. These last two years of preparation have been filled with opportunities to serve people in need, as well as people in my parish, neighborhood and family. I especially enjoyed the Service Project where my classmates and I prepared lunches for 36 homeless women who live in a shelter near our church. It made me happy to know I was helping someone who really needed help. Last but not least, I want you to know that I chose Joseph, my Baptismal name, as my Confirmation name because the two sacraments, Baptism and Confirmation, are closely connected. It made sense to me to choose Joseph because St. Joseph also obeyed God about accepting Mary into his household.

I intend to continue serving God by helping others less fortunate than myself. I understand that the Sacrament of Confirmation gives us many gifts to help us live as Christ taught. I will always pray to God for help and for the power of the Holy Spirit, especially when things get tough, as life sometimes does. I hope that by doing this, I will serve as a model for my friends and someday, for my own family.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my request. I look forward to the day of my Confirmation.

Sincerely in Christ,

Joseph A. Kennedy