

Typed DRAFT letter due January 8, 2012 for review and correction. Must be signed by parent who reviewed English, spelling and all points needed on p.61

Typed FINAL HAND SIGNED letter due February 12, 2012 7pm

ONLY ONE TYPED PAGE with Margins 1" top, 1"bottom, 1" left and 1" right

FONT 12pt (no LARGER or SMALLER) Arial or New Times Roman Fonts ONLY

Letter reflects YOU to the BISHOP. Correct spelling and grammar are CRITICAL.

Letter is personal and PUBLIC as Bishop will read every letter and QUOTE at ceremony

Most Reverend Tod D. Brown, Bishop of Orange,

My name is George Richard Kamp. I am a sophomore at University High School in Irvine. My family belongs to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish where I am preparing for confirmation into the Catholic Church. ***I ask to be confirmed after my baptismal saint George. His courage and devotion to his faith as a Roman soldier shines as an example of how I should live my faith.***

Being confirmed in the faith of my family and church is important to me, as I will be a recognized adult member of the church. It will complete my initiation into the Catholic faith, which began with my baptism.

During my faith journey I learned that God is like a father, lovingly guiding me on a journey of self-discovery. My faith has grown stronger since my family and I joined St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish. Community is an integral part of my faith. My family and I have found friendship and support along with a shared faith and belief. Even during times of difficulty I have found strength in the community of our parish and prayers to our common Father.

One Christian Service project that has a very important impact on me is the Multiple Sclerosis Walk. This is a fundraising event that occurs each spring to raise money for research, treatment and hopefully a cure of Multiple Sclerosis. My Mom has MS so this is a very personal and important event for me. I recognized that along with prayer, the Lord has given us the ability to help each other and to draw strength from each other. Events, such as the MS walk, which bring together people of many faiths, reaffirm the way all humanity can join together for common good.

As a fully initiated Catholic adult, my responsibilities will be to set an example for other members of my community. Specifically, I will help to guide my five year old sister in her Catholic faith. I also will have the privilege of becoming my cousin's godfather. I was honored when my aunt, who is my godmother and confirmation sponsor, felt that I was responsible enough to serve as Kaitlyn's godfather. I eagerly look forward to a lifelong commitment of loving and guiding my young cousin in God's teachings.

Finally, I would like to thank you, Bishop Brown, for taking the time to read my letter. In addition, I would like to thank my Mother and step-Father, Debbie and Sean, my grandparents, Allana and Mickey McNight, my aunt, Kelly McNight, as well as my sister Kaya and my niece Kailyn for their endless support and encouragement not only through my confirmation journey but throughout my life.

Sincerely Yours In Christ,

George Richard Kamp (must be hand signed)

George Richard Kamp (always type full name below signature)

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Most Reverend Tod D. Brown, Bishop of Orange,

My name is Katherine Marie Smith, and I am a tenth grader at Woodbridge High School. My parish is St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Irvine. ***I request to be confirmed after my baptismal saint Katherine Drexel. She founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and African-Americans to guide their spiritual well-being. Her example helps me talk about my faith.***

I desire to be confirmed into the Catholic Faith of my parish because it is a step of devotion that will bring me closer to God. This Sacrament of Initiation is very special because as a candidate, I get to choose to continue the growth that started from the day I was baptized.

During my journey I learned more about the stories in the Bible and what they mean in my life. I felt more confident in my knowledge of my Catholic faith. I also was blessed through my participation in our parish's annual youth retreat. This get away helped me feel closer to God, and also helped me work on my personal relationship with God through other people's stories and services. It was a wonderful experience that I would like to share with everyone. That is why I am participating in it again this year as a leader-in-training.

One Christian Service project that had an important impact on me was the Christmas tree deliveries. I really enjoyed this project because it allowed me to touch people in a special and rewarding way. The nursing home residents waited with great joy to see our smiling faces and hear our out-of-tune Christmas carols. The ability to reach people in such a profound way with such a small effort was a blessing. This experience allowed me to take a step back and thank God for everything he has blessed me with in my life.

As a fully initiated Catholic Adult, my responsibilities will be to go to church and practice my religion more maturely. This includes, learning more about my faith, continuing to read the Bible and participating in Christian service projects on my own time after I have completed my Confirmation journey.

Thank you Bishop Brown, for taking time to read my letter. I would also like to thank my confirmation leaders, John Statsewitz and Jeff Nameth for helping me understand my faith, my sponsor, Lori Tomson, for listening to me and my Dad, Brian, who has always been a great Catholic Role model for me. God bless you.

Sincerely Yours In Christ,

Kathleen Marie Smith (must be hand signed)

Kathleen Marie Smith (always type full name below signature)

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Most Reverend Tod D. Brown, Bishop of Orange,

My name is John Allan Harnet, I attend University High School and am currently a sophomore. ***I request to be confirmed after my baptismal saint John the Baptist because he boldly prepared the way for Jesus.***

I am prepared to receive the sacrament of Confirmation at my parish, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. Confirmation, as I understand it, is the acceptance of an individual as a contributing adult member of the church. I have been working towards the goal of being confirmed for two years now, and have been following Christ all of my life. Furthermore, getting confirmed into my parish community will stress the importance of my regular attendance at church, and help me to always make the right choices throughout my life.

During my confirmation journey, I learned a lot about God's word, and how to live according to his teachings. Going through the program bettered my understanding of Jesus' unconditional love for all of us as individuals.

Recently, I was able to share God's love with other less fortunate people in an extremely eye opening way. For Thanksgiving Day, my family and I had the opportunity to visit my grandfather. He lives down in Mexico, and so we were able to go spend the weekend at his place. During our adventure, on Sunday morning, we came across a poor orphanage, at which we stopped to check it out. As we walked to the front gate I saw dozens of young children playing soccer and rolling around in toy cars. We went inside, and a man took us on a short tour of the facility. Then the man told us we could stay for as long as we pleased, and play with the kids. The kids were really happy to see us, and they ran up to me and hugged me, and they lined up for me to give them piggy-back rides around the sandbox. I stayed, simply playing with the kids for hours, and they just loved the company. When it was time to go, the children wouldn't let go of us, they wanted us to stay and be with them.

On the way out, we overheard that the kids were leaving soon anyways for church. This really made me realize, first hand, the power of God's love in people's lives. He loves all of us equally, and even extremely unfortunate kids, without parents, and owning nothing but the clothes on their backs, can find joy in Jesus Christ, and what he lived for.

Upon receiving Confirmation, and becoming a fully initiated Catholic adult, my responsibilities cannot be limited by words. With what I say, and the actions I take, I will strive to make this world a better place to live in, through professing my faith, and sharing it with others. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, Bishop Brown, for the opportunity to grow closer to Jesus Christ as I fulfill this upcoming sacrament.

Sincerely,

John Allan Harnet (must be hand signed)

John Allan Harnet (always type full name below signature)