

May, 2011

Dear 8th Grade Student and Parent/Guardian;

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and invite you to the Holy Cross Confirmation program. For the past year I have been working closely with Tracie Reinhart to learn the Youth Ministry Program and familiarize myself with the adults and youth involved. This past year confirmed in me how blessed we are at Holy Cross to have such a wonderful group of teens and adults. I am so excited to come in this year and work in such a great parish and serve my community! It is going to be a great year and an ever so Holy Journey that we will be taking together!

Confirmation is a sacrament that completes Baptism, initiates you fully into the Catholic Church and bestows the seven gifts of the Spirit upon you. It is your answer "YES" to our Lord's invitation to follow Him as a disciple. It is not a sacrament to be taken lightly. Confirmation preparation requires both time and commitment on the part of the youth preparing and the family. **This is for students who will have completed 8th grade by June 2011** and it is the Church's desire that the youth makes the final decision to be confirmed in his or her **home parish**. I ask that you take the next few days to pray and discuss as a family your desire to receive the sacrament.

Once you have made the decision to be confirmed, your parish community, along with the youth ministry office, will strive to make the Confirmation program a very spiritual, joyful and prayerful experience for both the teen and the family. We find it much easier to accomplish this when we have all the information we need from our parents. **The registration application, emergency form, a guide on choosing a sponsor and a sponsor verification form, a School Reach information sheet, as well as a list of important dates including the dates of the initial parent/teen meetings and the Confirmation retreat (mandatory for all Confirmandi) will be available on the parish website – www.holycrossnet.org - beginning May 27, 2011. Please download the necessary forms, fill them out and return them to the youth ministry office no later than August 29, 2011. If this information is NOT received by the due date, I will assume that your child WILL NOT be preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation here at Holy Cross Church.**

We look forward to taking this faith journey with you and your family and hope that the coming year of preparation strengthens your relationship with Jesus Christ.

May God Bless Your Family,

Al Wyllie, Coordinator
Youth Ministry

AW/mm
Enclosures