**Confirmation Retreat Support Letters**

PLEASE KEEP THIS CONFIDENTIAL!!!!

We have a tradition that has become a part of our Confirmation retreat…support letter/letters of affirmation containing words of advice, friendship, spirituality and love from sponsors, parents, godparents, siblings or other relatives. It is our hope that these letters inspire the Confirmation candidate to develop a closer relationship with God and how this relationship affects and inspires other relationships in their lives.

These letters will be handed to each candidate during a time of silent reflection at the retreat. Your written thoughts and words will go a long way in supporting them in their Catholic faith journey. It’s a joy and a privilege to be able to write such a letter. This is truly a wonderful gift for your candidate!

Support letters are due the Tuesday before the retreat. These letters can be ‘delivered’ in any of the following ways:

1. Can be emailed to [rburbrink@saint-max.org](mailto:rburbrink@saint-max.org) . They will be printed and placed in an envelope with the candidate’s name on it.
2. U.S. Mail…Attn: Robin Burbrink, “Your Candidate’s Name” Support Letter, St. Maximilian Kolbe Church, 5720 Hamilton Mason Road, Liberty Twp, OH 45011
3. Dropped at Church office or at one of the prayer services prior to the deadline…each letter should be sealed in its own envelope with the candidate’s name printed on the front side of the envelope.

**Some things to think about**…these are just ideas! Your letters will be as unique as your relationship with this young person.

* First things first: say a quiet prayer to the Holy Spirit. Ask Him to help you say what He wants you to say.
* Simple, genuine encouragement is best. Even brevity is not a bad thing! Don’t pressure yourself to write “deep” or “profound” thoughts. The best that you can give is to share what the mercy and love of Christ has done for you, and to share this in love.
* Don’t preach! The good news is that this burden is not on you. Just encourage, build up, affirm, and express confidence in the plans God has for this young man or woman.
* Talk about how you have seen your candidate grow, not just spiritually but over all the years you have known him/her.
* Talk about the special place he/she holds within your family, how he/she has brought love and joy to the family and others.
* Talk about proud you are of the way this young person is preparing for Confirmation – their effort, Christian awareness, prayer, concern for others, etc.
* Share your own faith story and how it has helped in your life.
* Challenge your candidate to rely on God’s grace as they move forward in their life/faith journey.
* Remind them that you will be there to encourage them during tough times.
* Share a quote or prayer.
* Assure the recipient of your prayers.

**Encouraging words from scripture**…there are so many possibilities to inspire and strengthen you and your candidate.

* “The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.” Proverbs 18:10
* “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.” Proverbs 3:5-6
* “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace.  In this world you will have trouble.  But take heart!  I have overcome the world.” John 16:33
* “For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love, and of self-discipline.” 2 Timothy 1:7
* “For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.”  Jeremiah 29:11
* “Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and power to the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary,  and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord shall renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.”  Isaiah 40:28-31
* “The Lord is my light and my salvation: of whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” Psalm 27:1
* “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”  Philippians 4:13