



ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Religious Formation Office

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November 9/10, 2011

Dear Parents of Confirmation Candidates:

At the parent meeting, I informed you we would be having the *National Evangelization Team* work with the Confirmation candidates. The team is composed of 10 or 12 young people, ages 18-30, who are prepared for this ministry. The retreat theme will be Confirmation, *Why Catholic? NET* views Confirmation as a vital time in the faith life of young Catholics. The theme is designed to instruct the candidates on the importance of this time in their faith development. The retreat is an opportunity to:

1. publicly answer for themselves;
2. make important decisions about sin, following Christ and the Holy Spirit;
3. realize Confirmation is not graduation from the Church; and
4. realize God desires to strengthen the gifts of grace received at Baptism.

The retreat will be at St. Thomas More School on **Tuesday, December 6**. The candidates in the after-school program should be dropped off at 8:15 a.m. and picked up at 2:30 p.m. at the carport. The day school students will meet in their homeroom, and the after-school students will gather in the gym. Dress for the day should be the student's red retreat T-shirt and casual pants. Jeans that are not torn or frayed are fine. **NO CARGO PANTS, DISTRESSED OR DESTRUCTIVE JEANS. (These are jeans which are purchased with holes and frayed material.) THESE ARE NOT ALLOWED.** All cell phones must be turned off during the retreat. If cell phones are utilized during the retreat they will be collected and held for a parent to pick up after the retreat. *We will provide lunch and snacks.*

As this is a school day, we have notified the public school principals of the retreat. They have informed us that your son/daughter will be excused from school for the retreat and will be able to make up any assignments or tests. **However, you must send a note to the school at least one week in advance of the retreat date to receive this excuse.**

There will be no after school Religious Formation classes for 8th grade on December 7 or December 8. In addition, there are no classes on December 7 or 8 for K-7 due to the Holy Day of Obligation for the Immaculate Conception. We will resume all classes on December 14 and 15.

You have an important role in making the retreat a success as well. A positive attitude on your part toward the retreat will engender a similarly positive attitude on the part of the youth. Please encourage your child to participate fully in the retreat experience. **A traditional high point for the youth has been receiving letters from their parents, sponsors and other individuals significant in their lives.** These letters are an opportunity to express your confidence and love of the youth as well as encourage them to continue their life of faith and development. Many times the youth are deeply touched by the messages sent them. These letters can be sent in a sealed envelope with the youth's name clearly printed on the front and labeled "Retreat Letter" to the Religious Education Office. **Please have all letters in by November 29.** Pray to the Holy Spirit that the Confirmation candidates will be open to God in their lives.

The Bishop will notify us of the date for Confirmation in December. We will send a notice home with the students as well as post the information in the bulletin.

Peace in Christ,

Mrs. Sandra Morgan
Director, Religious Formation