

August 8, 2019

Dear Parents,

As you may know, the Diocese of Burlington is lowering the age at which children will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. By the school year 2022-2023, the Sacrament of Confirmation is scheduled to be received by students in the sixth grade. One of the graces communicated through the reception of the Sacrament Confirmation is the power to embrace fully the Catholic Faith. Our hope is that receiving the Sacrament at an earlier age will give our young people the strength they need to persevere in their religion, against the pull of a culture that has largely abandoned God.

In order to reach the goal of having confirmation in the 6th grade, we will gradually lower the grades in which the Sacrament is received. In the upcoming school year, those students in the 8th and 9th grades will be confirmed. Confirmation after this school year will be as follows: in the 2020-2021 school year – 7th and 8th graders; in the 2021 – 2022 school year – 6th and 7th graders; and in 2022 – 2023 school year and thereafter – 6th graders.

We know that learning about the Faith is a gradual process, with one thing building upon another. For this reason it is extremely important that your child(ren) participate in religious education throughout their elementary and high school years because what they learn in these years will lay a foundation upon which the Sacrament of Confirmation is received, as well as the vocational Sacraments of Matrimony and Holy Orders, which many of them hope to one day receive.

In the past, Confirmation has been experienced as a kind of graduation from the program, even though we have stressed the importance of continued education. In no other field do we have that idea that what we have learned by the age of sixteen is sufficient for a lifetime of practice. Therefore, we need to stress that Confirmation is not a graduation, especially as now it will be received at an earlier age.

Having received the Sacrament of Confirmation the expectation is that your child(ren) will continue to participate in the Religious Education program. The classes that follow will be geared toward living out the fullness of the Christian life, and, as the student matures, the classes will take place in a less formal setting with such things as Bible study and discussions based on students' topics of interest. One of our parish goals will be to provide age appropriate learning opportunities for all of our young people, from the earliest elementary, through college age students. With your help, my hope is that we might impress on our young people the importance of learning about and living their Catholic Faith.

With gratitude for your ongoing support and cooperation,

Rev. Karl A. Hahr

Fr. Karl A. Hahr
Pastor