

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

March 22, 2018

To the St. Vincent de Paul Confirmation Candidates of 2018,

On April 21 you will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at the Basilica of St. Mary in Minneapolis. I will be there to pray for you and to assure you of the love and the support of your home parish – but, on that momentous day of grace, I will not get to preach to you. Our Bishops reserve that right for themselves. I must just sit there and listen like the rest of you.

On that day I am sure the Bishop will speak to you words to encourage you and to inspire you. Still, it will pain me to keep silent, because there is much I want to tell you. You are my first Confirmation class at St. Vincent. I have no memories of you when you were younger and just beginning your faith journey. I am sure that you were delightful little children. Yet as delightful as you were as little children, you have changed much since then. I dare say that now you are an even greater and deeper source of delight to our parish and to your families. This has been the effect of God's grace in your lives – and it is just a foretaste. There is an even more wondrous transformation that is yet to come over you.

I suspect that for many of you the hours that you spent preparing for your Confirmation have tested and even troubled and puzzled you. It has been hard for you to understand why you have had to do some of the things your parish and your parents have asked of you. The process has caused you to search your hearts, to examine your convictions, to reflect more deeply about what you truly believe, to learn to see in a new way, and to trust more deeply.

Good young people, it's not over. The same Holy Spirit that has guided you through this time of preparation will continue to search you, prod you, shake you, and awaken you – now in an even more intense way and throughout your life. It is a holy wrestling that you must give yourselves to, and not run from, if you are to know the fullness of the gift that God has for you.

Too quickly my letter must come to an end when there is much more to say. I know, however, that if you listen, the Holy Spirit will speak to you on what you need to know and when you most need to know it. Through a life lived in the Eucharist, God will reveal beautiful things to you.

Thank you for your letters to me. I will read them all and pray for each one of you. You have been a blessing to this parish. We wish you God's best.

Peace and love in this new outpouring of the Holy Spirit,

Fr. Dennis Zehren – Pastor

Know and celebrate our Catholic Faith, Love God and our neighbor, Serve as disciples of Jesus Christ.

9100 93rd AVENUE NORTH, BROOKLYN PARK, MN 55445
PHONE: 763-425-2210 FAX: 763-425-7898 EMAIL: CHURCHINFO@SAINTVDP.ORG