

Guidelines for Writing a Spiritual Autobiography for Confirmands, Receptions, and Reaffirmations in the Diocese of San Joaquin

The Bishop's usual practice is to try and meet in person with candidates for Confirmation, Reception, or Reaffirmation prior to the laying on of hands service, in order to hear from them – in their own words – the story of their faith thus far and why they want to take this step in their faith. However, from time to time and in certain years, this type of one-on-one meeting will not be possible.

In order to be certain that the Bishop is still able to get to know the candidates, he requires that each candidate write a brief spiritual autobiography, with the help of their sponsors and/or clergy. The following are some minimum guidelines (not exhaustive) for the types of information a spiritual autobiography of this sort should provide:

- What is your faith background? Did you grow up in a Christian home environment, some other faith, or with no faith at all?
- When did you begin your relationship with Jesus? Has it been ongoing since your baptism as an infant, or were you older?
- What impact has following Jesus had on your life? What role has your faith played in your day-to-day activities, whether school, work, or social/recreational?
- What do you think Confirmation is, and why is being Confirmed/Received or Reaffirming your faith something you want to do right now
- What does being an Anglican mean to you?
- Do you believe the Nicene Creed? Why is it important?

Again, these are just some minimum guidelines for the types of things that should be included in the spiritual autobiography. These autobiographies should be in the Bishop's possession no later than two weeks prior to the date of Confirmation/Reception/Reaffirmation.

KEY DATES

- Decision deadline for confirmation/reception/reaffirmation is Sunday, November 30th
- Deadline for candidates to submit spiritual autobiography to Fr John is *also* Sunday, November 30th
- Confirmation/reception is Sunday, December 8, including meeting with bishop in the late afternoon / early evening on Saturday, December 13 in the parish hall at a time TBD