Dear parents,

Notre Dame sociologist Christian Smith has been on the forefront of studying the rather startling statistics of why so many American teens are giving up their faith as they get older. Here’s a brief summary of his conclusions:

- “No other conceivable causal influence… comes remotely close to matching the influence of parents on the religious faith and practices of youth.”
- “Parents, for better or worse, are actually the most influential pastors... of their children.”
- “One of the strongest factors associated with older teens keeping their faith as young adults was having parents who talked about religion and spirituality at home.”

With these findings in mind, we are seeking to utilize this important year of Confirmation to help create more opportunities for you and your child to have discussions of faith at home. So, built into this year’s Confirmation program are a number of assignments (such as this one) that we would like you to look over and use as springboard for fruitful conversation. After doing so, please simply sign your name(s) below.

Parent signature(s): __________________________________________

1. How was the Confirmation retreat? What did you do? What were some of the main themes of the retreat?
2a. What were some of the things from the retreat that you think were the most important or impactful? *(Go Deep and Connect Wide!)*

2b. In what specific and practical ways can you apply these things to your own life? *(Go Deep and Connect Wide!)*