

Spiritual Warfare

Last Meeting of the Year



First & Last Name: _____

Class: _____ Today's date: _____

Saint of the Day: _____

(Pray for me!)

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. What do you consider to be the 3 most important things you learned/gained/will remember from your Discipleship Group this year?

2. Now that you've received the Sacrament of Confirmation you know that it's up to you to "stir up" the gifts of the Holy Spirit that you've been given. How do you plan on using these gifts to share your faith and serve those around you? (Parents, siblings, classmates, teachers, teammates, etc.)



The image contains two small photographs. On the left is a brown plastic bottle of 'Holy Spirit' syrup. The label features the words 'GERMAN' and 'SWEET PLUM' at the top, 'HOLY SPIRIT' in large letters in the center, and an illustration of a landscape with a church and trees at the bottom. On the right is a close-up of a hand using a white stirrer to mix a drink in a clear glass. The drink has a dark base and a thick white foam on top.

3. High school is just around the corner. What kinds of temptations do you think you might face during the next couple of years? How do you think your faith will be tested?

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for the student to write their response to question 3.

4. What are you planning to do to remain close to God and keep your faith strong during the next couple of years? What daily, weekly, and/or monthly spiritual habits do you want to develop in your life?

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for the student to write their response to question 4.