

Saint Catherine of Siena Church

1310 Bayswater Avenue, Burlingame, CA 94010-4313 • (650) 344-6884 Fax: (650) 344-1022

June 22, 2011

Dear 9th Graders and Parents,

We hope that you are enjoying a restful summer and that your family is well. This letter is an invitation to continue your faith formation and to be part of our high school Confirmation program for this coming year. Information about the program follows. Calendars, Registration Form, Parent/Sponsor Participation Form, and Sponsor Qualifications are enclosed. *Please note that the dates for the Confirmation retreat and Confirmation come early again this year.*

Interviews will take place August 1 – September 16th. Please contact Silvia Chiesa, 650-344-6884 or silvia@stcsiena.org, for a Monday-Friday appointment.

Candidate/Parent/Sponsor Meeting

We will have an introductory meeting for candidates (students), parents and sponsors on Monday, September 19th at 7:00 P.M. in St. Catherine's church. The sponsor qualifications are included. All please attend.

Meetings in Preparation for Confirmation

Meetings will be on Monday nights from 7:00-8:30 P.M. Please see the enclosed calendar for scheduled dates.

Confirmation Retreat

All candidates are required to attend the Confirmation Retreat, November 4-6, 2011, departing Friday at 4:30 P.M and returning Sunday, 3:00-3:30 P.M. The retreat is a community and faith-building experience organized under our direction with trained high school and young adult leaders. **We need adult chaperons for this to happen.** Parents and sponsors, please volunteer.

Christian Service & Justice

During this time leading to Confirmation, we offer opportunities to candidates to explore and engage in Christian charity, service, and peace and social justice activities. Archdiocesan Confirmation Guidelines state that candidates should engage in a minimum of 15 hours of service and acts of justice with Theological Reflection during this preparation period.

The Calendar is enclosed and will be posted on the parish website, www.stcsiena.org, under Confirmation for High School Students.

Teen Safety Online Training

All high school students in our programs are required to complete the *Teen Safety* online course found at www.ShieldTheVulnerable.org. Please return a copy of the Certificate of Completion with Confirmation registration. *Teen Safety* is not the same as the *Kid Safety* done in elementary school. It is a next level safety course for high school students. It will be reviewed together at one of the scheduled meetings. Please see the enclosed flyer for instructions and further information.

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Fees (\$175 in parish, \$225 out of parish) include Bible, all educational material, and the weekend Confirmation retreat (room, meals, and bus transportation). Please pay the tuition in full and submit with your registration or submit half with registration and the balance by November 1st. If you are having difficulty with payment of the fee, please contact us or note it on the appropriate space on the registration form.

The **Open Contribution** is a means whereby families could directly support the high school Confirmation program. It is a contribution, in any amount, which you might wish to make in addition to the minimum, which does not entirely cover the cost of the program.

Parent and Sponsor Participation

In order for this Confirmation process to be of the quality that candidates deserve, each family that enrolls is asked to actively assist in some way. Please include the PARENT/SPONSOR PARTICIPATION form with your application with an area in which you can volunteer. Sponsors are also needed at Masses, rituals and meetings as noted on the Confirmation Calendar. Candidates should choose their sponsor prior to the Parent/Sponsor/Candidate meeting on September 19th. Sponsor qualifications, requirements and guidelines are enclosed.

Supplies

All candidates will be given a Bible which they must bring to all meetings. They must also bring a pen and notebook or journal.

Attendance and Participation

It is our expectation and hope that candidates and their families will set this time aside as sacred in preparation for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Registration

We would appreciate your returning 1) Registration Form, 2) Registration Fee (full, partial or note regarding), 3) Parent/Sponsor Participation Form, 4) Baptism Certificate or baptismal information if baptized here, and 5) *Teen Safety* Certificate by August 1st. Please mail or drop off to

St. Catherine of Siena Church
Attn.: Silvia Chiesa
1310 Bayswater Avenue
Burlingame, California 94010

We look forward to getting to know you better.

Peace of Christ,

Fr. John Ryan
Pastor

Silvia Chiesa - Pastoral Associate/DRE
silvia@stcsiena.org