

WITNESS PAPER #1 GUIDELINES:

How has my family helped me to understand my Faith?

Below are some questions to help you write this paper. Your task is not to simply answer the questions as if this were a test, but rather to share the story of your Faith history with your reader. Incorporate the answers into paragraphs on the topic. Please talk over the questions with your parents before you write your paper. Find some time when you can sit with them and really talk: perhaps at a leisurely family dinner or on a rainy/snowy Saturday afternoon. Arranging a time in advance benefits everyone and makes sure that you won't be hurried. Planning the time enhances everyone's commitment to really talk. The questions are designed as starters for your own sharing of your story of faith, not as the only topics you might address. Go beyond what is asked of you. Be creative in your approach.

1. What are your first memories of God? (Possibilities: Bible stories, meal prayers, family Church outings, etc.)
2. As you grew up, what did your family and extended family do that helped you continue to learn about God? (Family might include godparents, grandparents, aunts and uncles.)
3. What behaviors, traditions, or guidelines did you notice your family modeled that helped you see:
 - a. That they followed the teaching of Jesus?
 - b. That you are a Catholic Christian family?[You may want to include extended family members (Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles) if they are part of your response/experiences.]
4. How have family members and friends assisted you and encouraged you in you Catholic Faith?
5. What other people have influenced your feelings toward leading a life according to God's teachings? (Include neighbors, catechists, priests, and friends.)
6. What have you learned lately to know Jesus better? What does it mean to you today to be called a "Disciple of Jesus"?
7. How have you come to understand the importance of service as a mark of a Catholic Christian?

The paper should be typed with correct grammar and spelling. You should save it on your computer or make a copy of the paper in case it gets misplaced or lost as it exchanges hands.

Due date: January 17, 2018