

# *Our Mother of Perpetual Help Church*

NEW LISKEARD, ONTARIO  
POJ 1P0

September 22, 2010

Dear Parents:

Greetings! I pray that the school year has begun well for you and your family. Autumn colours have now changed and hints of winter creep upon us. This unending cycle of seasons reminds us of our own beginnings and rebirths from season to season.

For your young person, one of these new beginnings is the preparation to celebrate Confirmation with our Parish Family. Your grade seven or eight child (or older) is a candidate for Confirmation this year, if they so choose. The celebration of Confirmation is a significant step in their faith journey, as they seek to grow closer to our loving God.

Confirmation is one of the sacraments in our Roman Catholic tradition which belongs to the Rites of Christian Initiation. Along with Baptism and the Eucharist, they empower us to lead Christian lives. This out-pouring of the Holy Spirit will be celebrated here in May 2010 by Bishop Marchand.

To prepare the candidates for Confirmation, we will be forming small groups of eight to ten young people with a group leader. They will meet six times between January and March. These group leaders will receive training to help lead our candidates through the preparation process. The main mode of these groups will not be teaching. Radically, what the small groups hope to accomplish is to "un-scare" the candidates, so they are free to talk about and experience our faith, our God and our Church. This process is one way in which candidates can prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. In the past we found our small group preparation to be a meaningful and life giving experience for each young person and their family.

A general information meeting for **PARENTS ONLY** will be held here on **Thursday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 P.M. in the Parish Hall of Our Mother of Perpetual Help Parish**. This meeting is for those parents who would like more detailed information on the Confirmation preparation process, program, time line and the celebration of the Sacrament.

Only those candidates registered and who complete the process will receive Confirmation: registration forms will be made available at the back of the Church as well as distributed to the students attending English Catholic Central School and St. Patrick's Parish. The registration **DEADLINE is Friday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>** and the first meeting for the candidates will be **Thursday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 P.M.**

May this time of preparation be a blessing in your families' lives. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the Parish.

Yours in Christ,



Father John Lemire  
Pastor