

# Developing A Prayer Team For Confirmation Ministry

By Dr. Dick Hardel

## Developing A Prayer Team

Often, as I coached congregations in North America, I have suggested to congregational leaders that they should surround each ministry of the congregation with prayer. For the growth of ministries and ministry projects of the Parish to be successful, it is very important to surround all of the congregation's efforts with prayer. This is also true of accomplishing the vision and desired outcomes of the confirmation ministry. St. Paul reminds us in Philippians 4: 4-7:

*Rejoice in the Lord always, I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (NIV)*

## Inform People of the Needs

- Through every vehicle possible (bulletin inserts, website, social media, monthly newsletter, phone calls, etc.) communicate to the members the need for volunteers to join prayer teams to support the students and families in the confirmation journey.
- An option might be to personally select and enlist a prayer team person for each student in the confirmation journey. Ask that person to recruit and enlist two more people with whom the lead person could meet each week (or every other week) to spend up to 15 minutes in prayer for the student and family.
- Recruit them to be trained for this specific prayer ministry.
- Select a date and time for the prayer team ministry training and invite all the volunteers/recruited people to attend
- Share the expectations of prayer team members and the length of this ministry (when does it end?)
- It is very helpful if the pastor or another spiritual leader write some prayers using a variety of styles for each confirmation student and family. This is helpful for the prayer team to start. They should be encouraged to use some of their own prayers as well.
- Each prayer team should have a leader either appointed by the pastor, lay leader, or first person recruited for the student. The leader will check every other week with the student, the student's family, and the faith mentor as to how the team should be praying together. The prayer team leader will communicate the prayer needs to the other members of that prayer team.
- The pastor or lay leader will inform each student and parent(s) of the names of the members of the prayer team for their confirmation milestone journey.
- The pastor or lay leader will check on the prayer teams throughout the confirmation journey to encourage them, make certain they are functioning, and to explore ways to be more helpful to the team to accomplish the desired outcomes.