

December 10, 2014

Dear 8th Grade Students and Parents,

Please forgive me for the misunderstanding of the purpose and format of the "Bishop Carroll Letters". These are new to me and I am striving to understand the purpose of these letters (other than stating, "I would like to go to Bishop Carroll").

A good Catholic School provides the environment to shape or form the ENTIRE person. This environment enhances the student's growth and maturity as a Catholic Steward. The Catholic Steward is "whole and holy".

Therefore, I would like to establish an opportunity for the 8th Graders to have a moment of "self-reflection" as they prepare to transition to their High School years. Some would call this exercise a "summarized" or "abbreviated" portfolio of a grade school Stewardship Experience.

Below, will be a "format" for the content of their letter:

- The letter should be written in "formal style"
- One page; Double-spaced; One inch margin; 10-12 font; Full Justification
- Five (5) paragraphs
- First Paragraph: Introduction of Yourself AND your Request (two parts)
 - This paragraph contains your reason for writing the letter AND little about yourself. State the reason you are writing this letter. ("I am asking to be sponsored by St. Peter Catholic Church that I may attend Bishop Carroll Catholic High School"). **THEN**, present to the reader of the letter a "human being" who interacts with people, places, and things (your name; grade level; school you are attending; favorite subjects at school and maybe a favorite teacher and why; favorite hobbies, sports, or pastimes; etc.).
- Second Paragraph: Past and Current Stewardship (two parts)
 - This paragraph reveals your Stewardship. Describe how the gift of your Time and Talent benefited your family, your school, your church, and your community; **AND** how have you benefited (become a better person) by your experience of Stewardship.
- Third Paragraph: The Benefits of Bishop Carroll Catholic High School
 - This paragraph describes how you HOPE that Bishop Carroll will assist or benefit you as a Catholic Steward. Present how you ENVISION Bishop Carroll benefiting you in your Faith (Spiritually); Academics (Intellectually); Athletics (Physically); and Activities (Socially and Emotionally).
- Fourth Paragraph: My Contribution to Bishop Carroll Catholic High School
 - This paragraph demonstrates how YOU will benefit Bishop Carroll because of the CHARACTER OF YOUR PERSON. Each person has Gifts and Talents. What will you bring to Bishop Carroll? What will you bring spiritually, intellectually, athletically, and socially? How will you contribute to this great school? How will you make Bishop Carroll a BETTER high school?
- Fifth Paragraph: Closing Statement and Repeat of Request
 - This paragraph is simply one sentence (or two). Generally, thank the reader for offering the time and consideration of your request.

December 10, 2014

Dear Father Gorges,

Father Bernie, I write this letter to ask that St. Peter Catholic Church sponsor my attendance at Bishop Carroll Catholic High School. My name is John Doe and I am an 8th grade student at St. Peter's Catholic School. I have had a great experience at St. Peter's. My favorite teacher has been Mrs. Smith because she was always real with us and got us to think "outside of the box". Language Arts and Social Studies classes have helped me to experience the world without leaving home. I hope that I may be able to travel to all the places about which I have read and studied.

Stewardship is a big part of my family's and my life. I recognize that God has given me many gifts and talents. I share these with my family by willingly doing my daily chores and helping with my baby brother. I have volunteered at the school Fun Night and I serve at Mass on weekdays and weekends. These experiences have helped me meet a lot of people and realize how many people it takes to have a good party or even a good liturgy at church. Both of my parents volunteer at the Lord's Diner. While working with them, I have come to appreciate the many gifts that I have and the sacrifices that Mom and Dad make for me.

Bishop Carroll has a strong Catholic environment. I hope that this environment will help me mature as a person and help me grow spiritually, academically and athletically. I see Bishop Carroll helping me to become a better Catholic Steward by offering daily Mass and frequent opportunities for Confession. It will challenge me to give of myself more to study and 100% during practice. Most of my friends are Catholic and I think Bishop Carroll, as a Catholic school, will provide that environment for me and my friends to stay Catholic and become stronger.

My family and St. Peter School have given me a great foundation. Because of my experience at St. Peter's, I think I am a strong, giving, Catholic Steward. I'm not perfect but I think I can be an example of a Catholic Steward by working hard at practice and studying hard for classes. I can show other kids that I am proud to be a Catholic by being involved at the school Masses. I know I can be a good Catholic student athlete and a good example of behavior. I will do my best to make St. Peter Church proud and with God's help, be the best I can be.

Thank you, Father, for this consideration. I hope I will be attending Bishop Carroll Catholic High School this fall. Go Eagles!

Sincerely,

John Doe