

Letter to the Bishop

Please use this form to begin the rough draft of your letter to the Bishop.

The Bishop cares about each of the souls in his diocese. He would like to get to know you. Your letter should share something about yourself with him. It should be one side of a plain sheet of paper if typed or both sides if hand written.

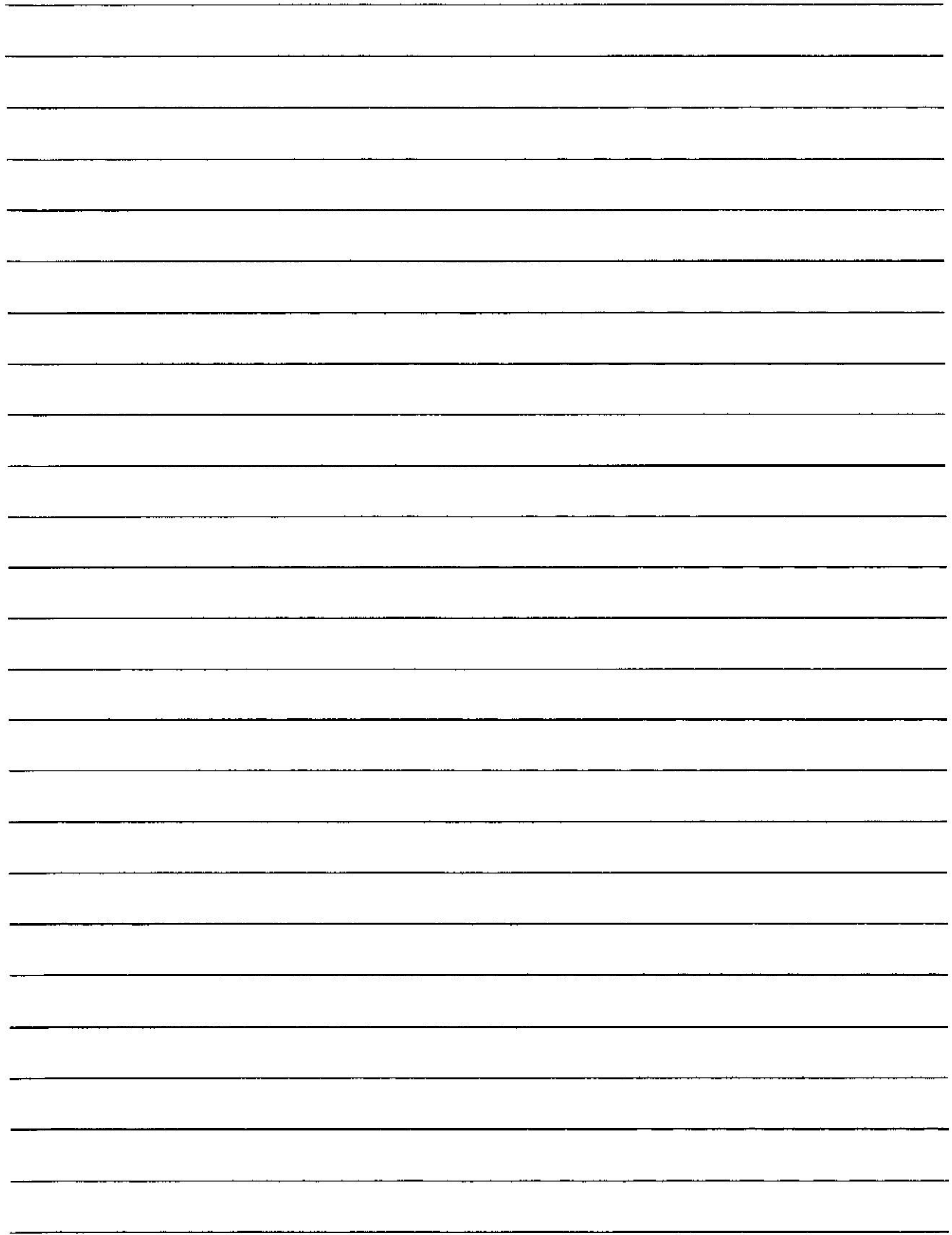
Addressing the letter: Most Reverend Felipe J. Estévez
Bishop of St. Augustine

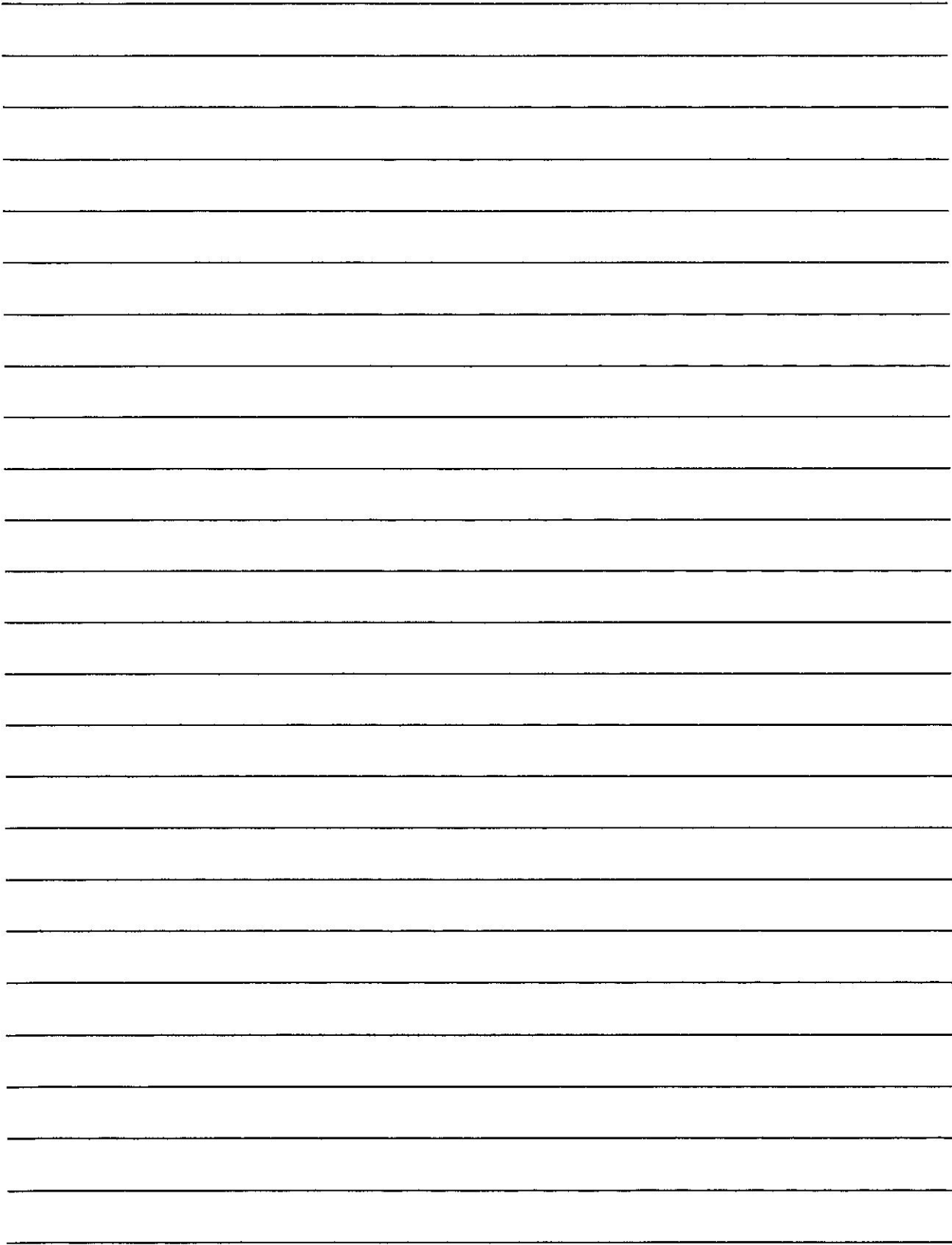
Salutation: "Dear Bishop Estévez" or "Your Excellency":

An optional concluding to your letter: Asking Your Excellency's blessing, I am, Yours respectfully, NN.

Along with your personal information or story, the Bishop is interested in your ideas regarding the following questions:

- In what ways has the preparation for the Sacrament helped you?
- How does the Church understand the Eucharist? What does the Eucharist mean to you personally?
- What will you do for the Church—for society as a confirmed Catholic?
- What is your basic prayer life...both as an individual and as part of a family?
- Someone said, "Confirmation has good effects in stewardship." Explain what this might mean.





Here are some additional things to contemplate before beginning your letter.

III. THE EFFECTS OF CONFIRMATION

1302 It is evident from its celebration that the effect of the sacrament of Confirmation is the special outpouring of the Holy Spirit as once granted to the apostles on the day of Pentecost.

1303 From this fact, Confirmation brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace:

- it roots us more deeply in the divine filiation which makes us cry, "Abba! Father!";¹¹⁷
- it unites us more firmly to Christ;
- it increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us;
- it renders our bond with the Church more perfect;¹¹⁸
- it gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross:¹¹⁹

Recall then that you have received the spiritual seal, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence, the spirit of holy fear in God's presence. Guard what you have received. God the Father has marked you with his sign; Christ the Lord has confirmed you and has placed his pledge, the Spirit, in your hearts.¹²⁰

1831 The seven *gifts* of the Holy Spirit are wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord. They belong in their fullness to Christ, Son of David.¹⁰⁹ They complete and perfect the virtues of those who receive them. They make the faithful docile in readily obeying divine inspirations.

Let your good spirit lead me on a level path.¹¹⁰

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God . . . If children, then heirs, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ.¹¹¹

1832 The *fruits* of the Spirit are perfections that the Holy Spirit forms in us as the first fruits of eternal glory. The tradition of the Church lists twelve of them: "charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, chastity."¹¹²