



# Episcopal Diocese of Washington

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Episcopal Church House, Mount Saint Alban, Washington, DC 20016-5094

November 18, 2011

Dear Rectors, Vicars, and Priests-in-Charge,

The service of Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation of Faith is a moment of great blessing and affirmation in the life of a Christian. It signals a spiritual turning point in a person's life, a conscious decision to step forward and be counted among other believers, to claim one's faith and choose to live as a follower of Jesus in community with others.

As Episcopalians, we are characteristically generous about this sacramental moment. We want those who are affirming the faith given them in baptism to be assured that they need not have resolved every spiritual question before being confirmed (for indeed, we proclaim the mystery of faith); those who come to the Episcopal Church from other traditions of Christianity to know that we honor their past; and those who feel called to reaffirm their faith, sometimes at the very moment of invitation to come forward, that they are always welcome to receive God's blessing.

In 2012, there are four scheduled services of Confirmation, Reception and Reaffirmation of Faith at our Cathedral Church of St. Peter and St. Paul. Those services gather us together as a wide community of Christians from across the diocese and if those services would serve the people of your congregation, please know that I welcome the opportunity to pray with and for them in that sacred place.

I would also be pleased to preside at services of Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation when I visit your congregations. Moreover, I welcome the opportunity to schedule special Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation services in various geographic regions of the diocese, if that would be helpful.

My goal as your bishop is to honor and welcome all who feel called by God to affirm or reaffirm their faith as Christians and be received into the Episcopal Church. In these early days of our life together, I welcome your thoughts and suggestions.

Faithfully,

The Rt. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde, D.Min.  
Bishop of Washington