

Palanca Letters

Palanca in Spanish means, “lever”. Palanca, for our purposes, is a spiritual lever used to gently and lovingly move people toward God. In this case, it comes in the form of a letter written to give support and guidance in the form of prayer, sacrifice, and heart to heart communication to the candidate.

Who is a Palanca letter from, and who is it for?

We ask that each parent, guardian, confirmation sponsor, or other significant adult role model write a letter to your confirmation candidate attending the Confirmation Retreat.

What can a Palanca letter do?

The long and short range results of Palanca letters are quite positive and very moving. Often times it reopens the lines of communication between parents and teens, allowing each to gain insight and understanding of the other. God also takes advantage of this opportunity, revealing Himself to us through each other.

Why is it important to write a Palanca letter to my student?

It is important that at least the parent(s) writes a Palanca letter to their student when you consider the benefits listed above that can result from this heart to heart communication of support and encouragement for your student. Also, consider your teenager’s feelings if everyone *but* your son/daughter receives a Palanca letter at the retreat.

What should be included in a Palanca letter?

- ✚ Tell how much you love him/her and how grateful you are for all/she is to you and others.
- ✚ Describe specifically why you believe this teenager is such a wonderful and unique creation of God. What is it about who they are that demonstrates their goodness and holiness?
- ✚ Describe the special place in the family this young person holds; what you look for in him/her that no one else can give; how he/she has brought love and joy to the family and to others.
- ✚ Describe how proud you are of this young person for his/her preparation for Confirmation – the effort, service, prayer, concern, and care that he/she has shown.
- ✚ Encourage your teen to come to you in times of pain, discouragement, and failure. Include an expression of sorrow for those moments of weakness or failure in your own life.
- ✚ Express the hope that he/she will always strive to grow in his/her relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church.
- ✚ Mention any prayer/sacrifice you have offered on their behalf (a spiritual bouquet – we will have spiritual bouquet cards at the Parent Information Meeting if you would like to fill one out and include it with your letter in the sealed envelope).

When and Where should I deliver the Palanca letter(s) for my student?

- ✚ Each Palanca letter should be in its own sealed envelope when we receive it. If you have more than one Palanca letter for your student, please consolidate the envelopes in to one larger manila envelope.
- ✚ **On the front side of the envelope, print, “PALANCA LETTER(S) for (name of Confirmation Candidate).**
- ✚ All Palanca letters should be brought to the Parish Office, Religious Education Office, or delivered to me at one of the ONE EIGHT or EDGE Nights, no later than the announced due date.