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## From the Clergy Associate

### Prayers for the Confirmation Class

Each month we ask parents and sponsors to pray for the Confirmation class, and especially for their child or candidate. Here is the prayer for April. Each monthly prayer is offered in dialogue with one of the questions asked of candidates in the Confirmation service, questions which are as lively for adults as they are for young people.

***The question:*** Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

***The prayer:*** Lord Jesus Christ, who didst stretch out thine arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of thy saving embrace: So clothe *N* in that Spirit that *s/he*, reaching forth *her/his* hands in love, may bring those who do not know thee to the knowledge and love of thee, for the honor of thy Name. *Amen.* [Adapted from *A Prayer for Mission, BCP, p 58*]

As I was looking at all of the questions asked of the candidates in the Confirmation service recently, I was struck by how these questions of The Baptismal Covenant stand out amidst all the clamor of the debates of this election year—or perhaps any election year. Questions such as, “Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?”, “Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?”, “Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?” (Perhaps at times these questions stand “in stark contrast” to all the clamor of the debates?)

These questions are so basic and foundational, yet at times they can also prove challenging to live out in our daily lives; and so, our response to each question is *always*, “I will, *with God’s help.*”

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