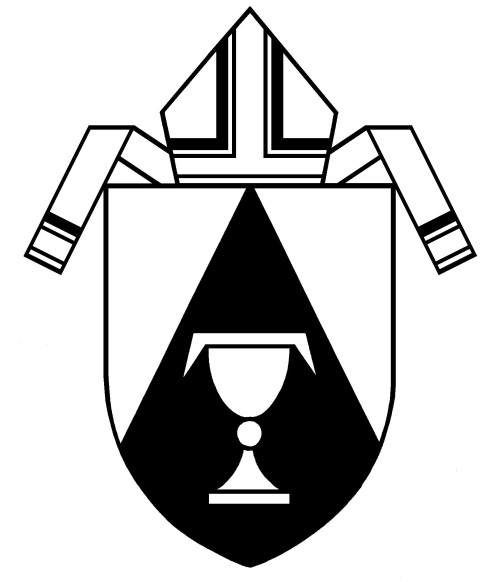
NORMS and GUIDELINES

for the

PREPARATION

of the  
ORDER OF CONFIRMATION

(Revised, November 2017)



DIOCESE

OF

SACRAMENTO

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**Norms for the Preparation of the Sacramento of Confirmation for Teenagers**

*The definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch but in communion, in intimacy, with Jesus Christ: only He can lead us to the love of the Father in the Spirit and make us share in the life of the Holy Trinity.*

**(Catechesi Tradendae, 5)**

## Sacrament Preparation

1. The beginning of any Sacrament Preparation program is Evangelization, introducing students to the person of Jesus Christ and creating opportunities for them to encounter Christ in their daily life. Evangelization is rooted in the presentation of the Gospel message. All Sacrament Preparation programs should present the Gospel message to students and relate the Church’s teachings to that message.

2. Parents are the primary catechists of their children. Parishes and Catholic schools partner with parents in the formation of their children’s faith.

1. It is the responsibility of parents to teach their children the traditional Catholic Prayers. Parishes and Catholic schools will provide parents with the “Prayers to Be Learned” prayer book and reinforce prayers during catechetical sessions.

3. In addition to helping children have a cognitive, age-appropriate understanding of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, catechetical programs should provide opportunities for spiritual enrichment. Examples of best practices for spiritual enrichment include, but are not limited to, the following: an age-appropriate retreat program, regular use of traditional and spontaneous prayers in class, Stations of the Cross during Lent, recitation of the rosary, opportunities for confession, and Marian celebrations. Children should be provided examples and opportunities to perform the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

4. Catechists preparing students in the **Immediate Preparation\*** for the Sacrament of Confirmation must hold a current Basic Catechist Certificate, issued by the Diocese of Sacramento.

5. Immediate Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation is the work of the Parish Team, in cooperation with parents and sponsors. The Parish Team includes, but is not limited to, the following individuals:

* 1. Pastor/Parochial Administrator, Parochial Vicar, Deacons
  2. DRE/CRE
  3. Principal (if there is an associated Catholic School)
  4. Confirmation Coordinator
  5. Liturgy Directory
  6. Catholic School Teacher (if there is an associated Catholic School)
  7. Catechists
  8. Others who have an active role in the formation of students/parents

6. Sacrament Preparation Norms Include the Following Categories:

1. Foundational Faith Formation
2. Immediate Preparation for the Sacrament
3. Content for Immediate Preparation
4. Family/Sponsor Catechesis
5. Sponsor
6. Mass Attendance
7. Interviews
8. Service
9. Retreats
10. Fired Up! Confirmation Conference
11. Involvement in the Parish Community

Foundational Faith Formation

7. Students are to be encouraged to participate in a lifelong process of faith formation from Kindergarten through High School

8. At a minimum, students must participate in two consecutive years of faith formation culminating in the reception of the sacrament.

9. Students participate in a foundational faith formation program (whether parish-based, at a Catholic School, or in an approved homeschool program) during these two consecutive years of formation

10. During the year in which the sacrament is received, students must also participate in the parish-based Immediate Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation

* 1. Students entering the Immediate Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation must be in the 7th, 8th or 9th Grade.

* + 1. Students older than 9th Grade, who have not yet been confirmed, are to be admitted to an Immediate Preparation Formation program provided they have one year of foundational formation or youth ministry (with a catechetical component) and are enrolled in the foundational faith formation program for the current year. In parishes where the number of older candidates is sufficient, an “older students” break-out group or class should be formed, as the developmental level of high school students is different from that of middle school students.

11. Parishes with Schools within the Diocese of Sacramento should celebrate the sacraments as one parish community with the normative age of students being the same regardless of where foundational faith formation occurs (i.e. parish or Catholic school).

12. Foundational Faith Formation programs are to follow a textbook appearing on the USCCB Conformity Review

1. Other materials approved by the Diocese of Sacramento for use in Foundational Faith Formation may be found in the Appendix to this document and on the Department of Evangelization and Catechesis’ website.

13. Foundational Faith Formation Programs are to cover the material appearing on the Religion Standards for the appropriate grade level in which a student is enrolled.

Immediate Preparation for the Sacrament

14. The Immediate Preparation process for the Sacrament of Confirmation is the responsibility of the parish pastor. In parishes with a Catholic School, the pastor should ensure that the catechesis is well coordinated between the Catholic School and the Faith Formation program. Students in both programs should have sufficient opportunities to develop a common identity as fellow disciples of Jesus.

15. Immediate Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation occurs at the parish-level. Students enrolled in the Catholic School or an approved homeschool program will receive their foundational formation through the school or homeschool program, but will join the parish for the immediate preparation events, including, but not limited to: Confirmation retreat, Parent/Sponsor Sessions, group service project(s), Confirmation Conference: Fired Up! and rehearsal for Confirmation.

16. Immediate Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation is to occur over a period of no fewer than 12 weeks prior to the reception of the Sacrament and contain no fewer than **12-contact hours**\*:

* 1. Immediate Preparation may be integrated into the foundational faith formation program in which the candidate is already enrolled.
  2. Up to 6 hours of Immediate Preparation may be completed as part of the Parent/Sponsor Sessions in which students also participate.
  3. The Confirmation Retreat, Fired Up! Confirmation Conference and the Rehearsal for Confirmation are in addition to the 12-contact hours.

**12 - Contact Hours \*** is 12 hours of direct Confirmation Preparation instruction with the catechist/teacher.

17. Immediate Preparation may occur in both gathered and non-gathered formats. Sponsors and candidates should be encouraged to meet outside of the scheduled formation sessions throughout the immediate preparation process.

1. Parishes may assist in this interaction by offering suggestions for activities, discussion and projects that sponsors and candidates complete together.

Content for Immediate Preparation

18. The Content for Immediate Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation is based upon the “Sacramental Preparation Protocol III, Confirmation,” from the USCCB.

19. Immediate Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation should include the following topics:

* 1. Sacraments of Initiation
     1. Essential Elements, Effects and Minister of the Sacrament of Baptism
     2. Essential Elements, Effects, Requirements for Reception and Minister of the Sacrament of the Eucharist
     3. Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist
     4. Essential Elements, Effects, Requirements for Reception and Minister of the Sacrament of Confirmation
  2. An Understanding of the Rite of Confirmation
     1. Liturgical Signs and Symbols
     2. Candidate Responses
     3. Purpose of Sponsor
     4. Role of the Family and the Community
  3. Call to Discipleship
     1. Living as a member of the Body of Christ (the universal Church)
        + Within the parish context
        + Within the general community
        + Within your immediate sphere of influence (eg. family, friends, and schoolmates)
     2. Vocational Discernment
  4. Role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Trinity
     1. Familiarity with the names and application of the Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit.

20. Parishes are encouraged to select an Immediate Preparation text that appears on the USCCB Conformity Listing of Catechetical Texts and Series.

1. Other materials approved by the Diocese of Sacramento for use in Immediate Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation may be found in the Appendix to this document and on the Department of Evangelization and Catechesis’ website.

Parent/Sponsor Sessions

21. Immediate Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation should involve the entire family and the sponsor.

22. Immediate preparation must include at least 4-6 hours of catechesis that involves the parents and sponsors.

* 1. Parishes are left to their own discretion as to the structure of these parent/sponsor sessions.
     1. The first Parent/Sponsor session must include formation that helps them understand their role in the formation process and their role in the life of the candidate both pre- and post-Confirmation.
     2. At least 2-3 hours must include catechesis with the parents, sponsors, and students together.
  2. Parishes may structure their Immediate Preparation for Confirmation such that the candidates are involved in the entire 4-6 hours of catechesis involving the parents and sponsors.
     1. The Parent/Sponsor sessions that involve the students apply to the 12-hour requirement for the Immediate Preparation of the student.

23. Sample Parent, Sponsor and Candidate Sessions are included in the Appendix to this document and on the Department of Evangelization and Catechesis’ website.

Sponsor

24. Requirements for a Sponsor (Canon 874.1)

* 1. Designated by the one to be confirmed
  2. Not be a parent of the candidate
  3. Have the qualifications and intention of performing this role
  4. Have completed the 16th year of age
  5. Be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the Sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist
  6. Not bound by any canonical impediment
  7. Be an active, practicing Catholic, receiving the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist regularly
  8. If married, married in the Catholic Church
  9. Lead a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken

25. Recommendations for a Sponsor

1. Individuals who live locally and will have a continued presence in the life of the candidate are recommended.
2. If candidates choose a sponsor who is not local, parishes should assign a “mentor” from the parish who will journey with the candidate through the Immediate Preparation

26. Sponsors should be involved in the formation of the candidate both during formation sessions and outside interaction with the candidate.

* 1. The role of the sponsor is to journey with the candidate throughout his/her formation process and life. As such, a relationship should exist and continue both in formal gatherings at the parish and informal activities in everyday life.

27. Sponsors are to be selected by the candidate prior to the beginning of the Immediate Preparation process for Confirmation. All required documentation should be provided to the Confirmation Coordinator and/or parish staff prior to this time.

1. Sponsors from outside the parish in which the candidate is being confirmed are to provide a letter from their pastor indicating they meet the criteria for being a sponsor.

28. Sample Sponsor Forms are included in the Appendix to this document and on the Department of Evangelization and Catechesis’ website.

Mass Attendance

29. Our Liturgy is the source and summit of our faith. Per Canon 1247, the faithful are obligated to participate in Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. As such, candidates in the preparation process for the sacrament of Confirmation are to attend Mass on a weekly basis.

1. The Sacrament preparation process should instill this essential Christian practice and have the expectation it will be fulfilled.

30. Activities that invite students to reflect on the Mass and share with parents, sponsors and/or classmates should be encouraged.

Interviews

31. Parish teams are to interview each candidate at the beginning of the second year of foundational faith formation to determine his/her readiness for entering the Immediate Preparation process, as well as areas of formation to be emphasized during the final months of preparation.

32. Interviews are to be designed to be non-threatening to the student and may also include the parents of the candidate.

33. During the Initial interview at the beginning of the second year of foundational faith formation, parish teams are to talk with candidates and their parents about the selection of a sponsor for Confirmation. The requirements for a sponsor are to be reviewed and discussed with the candidate to ensure that the candidate has an approved sponsor selected by the time the Immediate Preparation process begins.

34. Parishes are encouraged to interview each candidate prior to the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation to discern readiness for the reception of the sacrament, answer any final questions the candidate may have and offer an opportunity for feedback on the preparation process.

35. Sample Interview questions are included in the Appendix to this document and on the Department of Evangelization and Catechesis’ website.

Service

36. During the Immediate Preparation process for Confirmation, students are to participate in two full-day service projects.

* 1. One of the service projects is to be organized by the parish and involve a group of Confirmation candidates.
     1. Parishes may elect to organize a single service project for the candidates, a group of projects on the same day where candidates select the project that fits their gifts and talents, or offer several opportunities on different days from which the students may select their preferred service project and date.
  2. A second service project is to be completed by the candidate and his/her family and sponsor.
     1. Parishes may offer a list of recommended/suggested service projects or organizations for families to contact

37. Service projects are to involve students in the community and offer interaction with other individuals.

38. Each service project is to be followed by a period of reflection on the project, its connection to our Catholic Social Teaching and the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy and the way their service impacted other individuals.

39. Sample Reflection Questions are included in the Appendix to this document and on the Department of Evangelization and Catechesis’ website.

Retreat

40. Candidates for Confirmation are to participate in a full-day Confirmation retreat sponsored by the parish or a group of parishes. Parishes are strongly recommended to offer candidates the opportunity to participate in a full-weekend (overnight) retreat.

1. This retreat is in addition to the 12-contact hours of Immediate Preparation for the sacrament and participation in Fired Up! Confirmation Conference.

41. Parishes may write their own Confirmation retreat, engage the Diocesan Retreat Team or other retreat teams/organizations such as NET or contract with a retreat center, such as St. Joseph Marello Retreat Center, Christ the King Retreat Center or Mercy Center to offer the retreat to their students.

1. Smaller parishes are encouraged to join together to offer a single retreat for a regional area

42. The Confirmation Retreat is designed to deepen the spiritual life of the students; it is not an extended catechetical session. Students should have the opportunity for personal prayer, reconciliation and Mass during the retreat. Talks and activities should focus on the spiritual development of the candidate and their role of living as a disciple of Christ and discerning their path. The retreat is also an opportunity for building community among the candidates.

43. Sample Retreats are included in the Appendix to this document and on the Department of Evangelization and Catechesis’ website.

Fired Up! Confirmation Conference

44. All parishes and schools are expected to attend Fired Up! Confirmation Conference bringing their candidates who will receive the sacrament of Confirmation that year.

45. Fired Up is typically held on a Saturday and Sunday. Students attend one of the two days and must be a part of a parish/school group attending.

1. Dates for Fired Up are made available as soon as they are finalized in the Department of Evangelization and Catechesis, typically in late May for the following year. Registration for Fired Up typically opens in late May or June. The location of the conference rotates among the Catholic High Schools in Sacramento.

## Involvement in the Parish Community

46. As a part of the Immediate Preparation for Confirmation, candidates are to be actively involved in the Parish Community. Involvement in the Parish Community is not to be confused with the Service Project opportunities.

47. The Parish Team should encourage, announce and invite candidates and families to participate in parish-wide activities.

48. Involvement in the Parish Community is designed to prepare students for being active members of the parish community following their Confirmation.

49. Students are to be introduced to various ministries within the parish and encouraged to participate in them throughout their formation and post-Confirmation.

1. This can be achieved by inviting leaders of various parish ministries to talk to students during a formation session and invite them to become involved.

## Confirmation Preparation Process

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Activity | People Involved | Time |
| Foundational  Faith Formation | Students | * 2 consecutive years, culminating in the reception of the sacrament |
| Immediate Preparation  for the Sacrament \*\* | Students/Parents/Sponsors | * Minimum 12 hours (2-3 hours must involve parents/sponsors) |
| Parent/Sponsor  Formation \*\* | Parents/Sponsors/Students | * 4-6 hours (2-3 hours must involve students) |
| Interviews | Students | * Beginning of Second Year of Foundational Faith Formation   (required)   * Immediately prior to reception of sacrament (encouraged) |
| Service | Students/Parents | * 1 full-day project organized by the parish for a group of candidates * 1 full-day project with family/sponsor |
| Retreat | Students | * 1 full-day (required)   Weekend/Overnight recommended |
| Fired Up! Confirmation Conference | Students | * 1 full day |

\*\* Parent/Sponsor Formation that also involves the students fulfills hours for both the Immediate Preparation for the Sacrament and Parent/Sponsor Formation

**Guidelines for the**

**Confirmation Liturgy**

**GENERAL INSTRUCTION**

1. The Confirmation Mass should exemplify the very best we have to offer liturgically. The Confirmation liturgy should be reverent, dignified and beautiful. This is accomplished by good planning and preparation, thoughtful and well-executed music, active participation by the assembly, and the involvement of competent liturgical ministers.

2. The Confirmation liturgy is never to be a show place for novel or virtuosic performance but should represent the normal liturgical practice of the particular parish community.

3. “The whole people of God, represented by the families and friends of the candidates and by members of the local community, will be invited to take part in the celebration and will endeavor to express their faith by means of the fruits the Holy Spirit has produced in them” *(Order of Confirmation,* no. 4*)* The cultural and ethnic diversity of the parish community should be taken into account in the preparation of the liturgy.

**Mass Setting**

4. The Ritual Mass for Confirmation (Roman Missal Ritual Masses: Christian Initiation: Conferral of Confirmation; Form A, B, or C) is used *except* on the Sundays of Advent, Lent, and the Easter season, Solemnities, in Holy Week and during the Octave of Easter. On any of these days the Proper Mass setting is used.

5. If Confirmation is celebrated during a regularly scheduled parish Sunday Mass at other times, the Mass setting of the day is used.

**Readings**

6. The readings are taken from the Mass of the Day.

7. The readings are proclaimed by qualified, trained readers from the parish community. When the Confirmation candidates are not young children, the readers may be chosen from among the candidates, if they are competent readers. If two readings are used in addition to the Gospel, there should be two readers.

8. The Gospel is to be read by a deacon. If no deacon is present ~~it~~ the Gospel is read by the pastor or another concelebrating priest.

**General Intercessions**

9. The General Intercessions from the *Order of Confirmation* are to be used at all Confirmations in the Diocese of Sacramento. A copy is attached for your convenience. It is permissible to add one or two intercessions if desired. A petition for an increase of vocations to the priesthood and religious life is to be included.

10. The bishop always introduces the intercessions and prays the concluding prayer.

11. If a deacon is present, he is to offer the Intercessions. If no deacon is present, they may be offered by someone involved in the preparation of the candidates. Ordinarily, the intentions should be offered by one person only. However, if they are offered in more than one language, there may be a reader for each language. Someone other than those confirmed read the Intercessions.

**Items to be Prepared for Confirmation**

12. In addition to all that is necessary for the celebration of the Eucharist, the following should be prepared:

1. If the bishop is to administer the sacrament of Confirmation while seated, a chair which can be placed in front of the sanctuary should be readily available. (See the *Specific Instructions for the Order of Confirmation.*)
2. A pitcher of water, bowl, towel, and some lemon slices are to be ready to bring to the bishop so that he may wash his hands when he has finished the anointing.
3. Each parish should have a copy of most recent edition of the Order of Confirmation (published 2016) and have it available to the bishop who may or may not bring his own copy
4. It is expected that the parish will provide the Sacred Chrism along with a small bowl or oil stock. The bishop may or may not supply the Sacred Chrism.

**Vestments**

13. In Ordinary Time the Confirmation Mass may be celebrated using either red or white vestments. When Confirmation is celebrated on Sunday, the color of the liturgical season is used. On Sundays and weekdays in Lent, purple (violet) is to be used, unless the rubrics specify otherwise (e.g. white for the Annunciation). During the Easter Season white is to be used.

14. The bishop will usually wear vestments belonging to the parish; a stole and chasuble are to be prepared for him. He will bring his own alb.

15. Concelebrating priests vest in the same color as the bishop; they also wear a chasuble if available, otherwise an alb and a stole.

**Role of the Deacon**

16. As much as possible a deacon shall assist at Confirmations. The deacon proclaims the Gospel, offers the General Intercessions, assists in the Rite of Confirmation, prepares the altar for the Liturgy of the Eucharist, and distributes Holy Communion.

17. If there is no deacon available in the parish, the bishop may bring with him a deacon who will, in addition to performing his normal liturgical roles, serve as a Master of Ceremonies.

18. If a deacon is not present, the Gospel is proclaimed by the pastor or another concelebrating priest.

**Processions**

19. It is important that the entrance and recessional processions be rehearsed so they are done in a dignified and reverent manner.

20. Entrance Procession: The candidates for Confirmation enter the church ahead of the liturgical ministers. Walking two by two the candidates follow each other. Someone should be assigned to facilitate this procession so there are no major gaps between candidates.. A procession is a communal act, a sign of unity, not a parade.

21. The liturgical procession follows the candidates in this order:

* Thurifer *(if incense is used)*
* Crucifer & servers with candles
* Additional servers, if any.
* Readers
* Deacon with the Book of the Gospels
* Concelebrating priests
* Bishop, with one or two deacons, if available.

**Music**

22. Music is an integral part of all liturgical celebrations. Special care should be given to the planning and execution of music for Confirmation. It should be appropriate to the occasion in terms of musical style and textual content. Music supports the liturgical actions without prolonging the celebration unnecessarily. If the altar is to be incensed and/or the Sprinkling Rite is to be done, music shall accompany the entire liturgical action and correspond to it.

23. The parish Sunday Mass should be the model for the musical program for the Confirmation Mass. Music for Confirmation should be drawn from the normal liturgical music repertoire of the parish community, in order to facilitate the participation of all in attendance, and secondly to acknowledge that those being confirmed are part of a specific worshiping community.

24. The candidates should rehearse the Confirmation rite, especially the responses, as well as the music to be sung at the Confirmation liturgy~~.~~ Some, if not most of the music should be familiar to the candidates.

25. If a worship aid ~~i~~s printed for the occasion, permission must be acquired for the reproduction of any music to be included. If the parish does not have annual reprint licenses with the various publishers, permission for “onetime use” reproduction may be obtained by contacting the publishers. The Office of Worship, (916) 733-0220, can provide further information on obtaining permission to reproduce music. (Parish events are not covered under a Diocesan reprint license, as is sometimes believed; the parish must obtain permission for each event.)

**Introductory Rites**

26. An entrance hymn accompanies the entrance procession. If there are a great many candidates and the procession will be lengthy, appropriate instrumental music may accompany the entrance of the candidates, reserving the hymn for the procession of the liturgical ministers and the bishop. (It is often useful to have instrumental music for a few minutes before the procession, preceded by the cantor or other minister inviting the people to quiet their hearts and minds in prayer.)

27. Because of the intrinsic link between Baptism and Confirmation, the Rite of Blessing and Sprinkling of Holy Water, by which we recall our Baptism, should be used at Confirmations whenever possible, especially during the Easter Season. An appropriate chant or song should accompany the Sprinkling Rite; however, it should be of such a nature that it can easily be concluded when the ritual action has been completed.

28. The *Gloria* is to be sung at all Confirmations, including weekdays during Lent. However, the *Gloria* is *not* to be sung on Sundays in Lent. It is not permissible to substitute another hymn or canticle for the *Gloria.*

**Liturgy of the Word**

29. The Responsorial Psalm should be sung by a qualified cantor, with an appropriate antiphon (response) for the people.

30. The Verse before the Gospel is sung with its appropriate acclamation (*Alleluia* except in Lent).

**Rite of Confirmation**

31. During the anointing by the bishop, an appropriate hymn or psalm may be sung, or instrumental music may be played. Music should be of a quiet and meditative nature so as not to interfere with the exchange between the bishop and candidate, and should not begin until after the first few candidates have been confirmed.

32. If a sung response is used during the General Intercessions, everything must be carefully coordinated so that the prayer flows smoothly and are not prolonged unnecessarily.

**Liturgy of the Eucharist**

33. The Ordinary of the Mass (Holy, Holy, Holy; Memorial Acclamation, Great Amen; Lamb of God) should be sung whenever there is singing at Mass. These acclamations are meant to be sung by the entire assembly so the settings should be familiar.

34. Notify the bishop beforehand whether or not the Lord’s Prayer will be sung; if the Lord’s Prayer is sung, the Doxology “For the kingdom, the power....” is to be sung as well.

35. There is no singing during the Sign of Peace; quiet instrumental music which leads smoothly into the *“Lamb of God”* is acceptable. The exchange of peace is made with those nearby and is not prolonged.

36. A familiar setting of the *“Lamb of God”* should be sung so as to facilitate maximum participation; care should be taken that the setting used is of an appropriate length, or can be brought readily to a close when the liturgical action has been completed.

37. The song during Communion is meant to accompany the liturgical action while calling to mind the great mystery being celebrated. Often a song with a simple refrain is the best choice for the Communion Procession so that people may more easily participate without having to rely on a book or worship aid.

38. A hymn or song of praise after Communion may be sung by the assembly. A period of silence should also be observed at this time.

**Blessing and Dismissal**

39. If announcements are to be made, they are done after the post-Communion prayer. When a Solemn blessing is to be given, the Deacon must remember to instruct the people, saying: “Bow down for the blessing.”

Other Instructions pertaining to the

Order of Confirmation

1. Attire: Candidates should dress modestly and in a manner consistent with the dignity and decorum of the sacred liturgy. Men should wear slacks, shirt, tie and dress shoes. Women should wear dresses with a modest neckline and which cover knees and shoulders. Gowns may be used. Stoles are not to be worn.
2. Candidates may process into the church ahead of the liturgical ministers, or be seated in advance. If the candidates process they enter two-by-two under the direction of someone appointed to facilitate that movement. Each candidate should have a name tag with his/her baptismal name clearly written on it. The candidate’s “saint name” may also be on the name tag.
3. After blessing the people with the Book of Gospels (before the homily), the bishop will sit and the pastor or another priest, or deacon, or catechist presents the candidates for confirmation. There is no set formula, but the Presentation should be simple, clear and direct, e.g.: “Bishop N., \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ parish presents these young people who have been prepared and are now ready to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. It is my privilege to present them to you at this time.”
4. If there are less than fifty candidates, their names are called individually. Each candidate stands as his or her name is called. After all the names have been called, the candidates sit and the bishop gives the homily.
5. After the homily the candidates stand for the Renewal of Baptismal Promises.
6. The Laying on of Hands: After the Renewal of Baptismal Promises the candidates remain standing. The book bearer or deacon holds the Confirmation Ritual for the bishop as he prays with outstretched hands over the candidates as a group. Other assisting priests, if present, also extend their hands during the prayer over the candidates. *(Order of Confirmation. No. 25.)*
7. Anointing with the Sacred Chrism: One of the following procedures is to be followed, depending upon which bishop is presiding.
8. When Bishop Soto or Bishop Cotta presides the candidates approach two by two. The two candidates stand shoulder to shoulder so that the bishop may easily anoint each one, turning only slightly from one to the other. Sponsors, standing behind their candidate, place their right hand on the right shoulder of the candidate as they approach the bishop. The sponsor says the name of the candidate to the bishop.
9. When Bishop Weigand presides, the candidates stand in a row along the front of the sanctuary, with their sponsors standing behind them, hand on shoulder. The bishop will move from candidate to candidate. After each candidate has been anointed, he/she returns to his/her pew and another candidate takes his/her place in the line. After anointing one line of candidates, the bishop moves back in the opposite direction, anointing as he goes. Small children being confirmed should stand on the same level as the bishop. Taller children are to be one step down from the bishop.

Which ever procedure is used, care is to be taken that the bishop can easily anoint the candidates without interruption or delay.

1. Two deacons or servers should accompany the bishop and stand on either side of him, and move with him as needed. The individual on the bishop’s right holds the Chrism while the one on his left holds the book. The bishop may decide to hold the Chrism himself.
2. When the candidate comes to the bishop the sponsor announces his/her name. The bishop then anoints his/her forehead, saying: “N., be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.” The confirmand immediately answers: “Amen!” The bishop then says: “Peace be with you” and the confirmand responds “and with your spirit.” The responses are very important and should be rehearsed.

49. After all have been confirmed, servers bring a pitcher of water, a bowl with lemon slices and a towel to the bishop so that he may wash his hands.

* + 1. After the bishop has washed his hands all stand for the General Intercessions. The bishop says the opening invitation and the concluding prayer. The deacon, if present, offers the general intercessions. If no deacon is present, the intercessions may be offered by someone involved in the preparation of the candidates, but *not* by one of those confirmed.The intercessions provided in the Order of Confirmation may be used. A petition for vocations to the priesthood and religious life is always to be included. Other petitions may be added (cf. Appendix). The person(s) offering the intercessions remains in place until the bishop says the concluding prayer.

51. After the General Intercessions, the Eucharist continues in the usual way. The Creed is not said as the baptismal promises were said earlier. A collection may be taken up. It is fitting that some of the newly-confirmed take up the collection and bring the gifts of bread and wine to the bishop. Additional offertory rituals or symbolic tokens are not permitted.

52. Holy Communion is to be administered under both species. (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, #240). There should be two ministers of the cup for each minister of the host.

53. The Bishop is pleased to accommodate families who wish to take a photo of him with the newly-confirmed for a short time after Mass. If a professional photographer has been hired to take a group picture, the bishop will pose with the group after Mass. It is important always to maintain respectful behavior and decorum whenever photos are being taken in the church. Organizing and rehearsing a group photo ahead of time is highly recommended.

54. The offering given to the Bishop will be deposited into a fund to assist with charitable needs. It is suggested that the amount should correspond to the size of the parish. For a small parish, the suggested offering is $250, a medium-size parish $500 is suggested and large-size parish $750. A very poor parish is not expected to give an offering.

Appendix

The Universal Prayer

**Bishop:**

My dear brothers and sisters,

let us humbly pray to God the almighty Father

and be of one mind in our prayer,

just as faith, hope and charity,

which proceed from his Holy Spirit, are one.

**Deacon or minister:**

For these servants,

whom the gift of the Holy Spirit has confirmed:

that, planted in faith and grounded in love,

they may bear witness to Christ the Lord by their way of life,

let us pray to the Lord.

**R. Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.**

For their parents and sponsors:

that by word and example

they may continue to encourage

those whom they have sponsored in the faith

to follow in the footsteps of Christ,

let us pray to the Lord.

**R. Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.**

For the holy Church of God,

together with N. our Pope, N. our Bishop, and all the Bishops:

that, gathered by the Holy Spirit,

the Church may grow and increase in unity of faith and love

until the coming of the Lord,

let us pray to the Lord.

**R. Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.**

For the whole world:

that all people, who have one Maker and Father,

may acknowledge one another as brothers and sisters,

without discrimination of race or nation,

and with sincere hearts seek the Kingdom of God,

which is peace and joy in the Holy Spirit,

let us pray to the Lord.

**R. Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.**

**Bishop:**

O God, who gave the Holy Spirit to your Apostles

and willed that through them and their successors

the same Spirit be handed on to the rest of the faithful,

listen favorably to our prayer,

and grant that your divine grace,

which was at work when the Gospel was first proclaimed,

may now spread through the hearts of those who believe in you.

Through Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen.**