

SACRAMENTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



First Penance
First Eucharist
Confirmation



Diocese of Salina
2020

DIOCESE OF SALINA
GUIDELINES FOR
THE RECEPTION OF
THE SACRAMENT OF
CONFIRMATION



The Sacrament of Confirmation

Introduction

The Sacrament of Confirmation is a powerful moment of grace, conversion and renewal of faith in the life of the Church. Pastors and shepherds of souls should make every effort to welcome the candidates for Confirmation with joy and acceptance. Every effort should be made on their part to deal pastorally with those who come to request the Sacrament of Confirmation. These guidelines are proposed to assist clergy and other pastoral leaders in the Diocese of Salina to fulfill their role as pastoral and catechetical leaders in a more conscientious and Christ like manner. These guidelines for the Sacrament of Confirmation are proposed for validly baptized children of catechetical age outside the scope of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. (RCIA)

“Confirmation perfects Baptismal grace; it is the sacrament which gives the Holy Spirit, incorporates us more firmly into Christ, strengthens our bond with the Church, associates us more closely with her mission, and helps us bear witness to the Christian faith in words accompanied by deeds.” (CCC 1316)

Norms

The Minister of the Sacrament of Confirmation

“In the Latin Rite, the ordinary minister of Confirmation is the bishop. Although the bishop may, for grave reasons, concede to priests the faculty of administering Confirmation, it is appropriate from the very meaning of the sacrament that he should confer it himself, mindful that the celebration of Confirmation has been separated from Baptism for this reason.” (CCC 1313)

Those to be Confirmed

1. In the Diocese of Salina the sacrament of Confirmation is normally celebrated in grade eight or high school.
2. A candidate for Confirmation must:
 - a. Be validly baptized in the Catholic faith and not previously confirmed. (proof of baptism must be obtained) A person validly baptized in another Christian tradition must make a profession of faith prior to the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation.
 - b. Be capable of renewing his/her baptismal promises.
 - c. Be properly instructed or catechized.
3. There is to be only one parish program for Confirmation. In parishes where there are Catholic schools, the Catholic school and the Religious Education Program collaborate in both the planning and implementing of the program.

4. Immediate “*preparation for Confirmation should aim at leading the Christian toward a more intimate union with Christ and a more lively familiarity with the Holy Spirit - his actions, his gifts, his biddings - in order to be more capable of assuming the apostolic responsibilities of Christian life. To this end catechesis for Confirmation should strive to awaken a sense of belonging to the Church of Jesus Christ, the universal Church as well as the parish community.*” (CCC 1309)

5. The candidate for the Sacrament of Confirmation is expected to participate in yearly ongoing faith formation since his/her reception of First Eucharist to assure a continuous systematic, age appropriate catechesis. When this is not the case the candidate should complete at least two (school) years of formal catechesis, either in a parish faith formation program or parish school, immediately prior to the time of the reception of the sacrament.

6. Parish catechesis for the reception of Confirmation is to include a retreat experience appropriate to the age level of the candidate. The retreat content should include an understanding of the relationship of Confirmation to the Sacrament of Baptism, the role and the gifts of the Holy Spirit in the life of the candidate, the importance of participation in the life of the Church, Christian discipleship, the opportunity for the Sacrament of Penance, and the celebration of the Eucharist.

7. The candidates for Confirmation should have an understanding and knowledge of the “*essential rite of Confirmation: anointing the forehead of the baptized with sacred chrism, together with the laying on of the minister’s hand and the words: ‘Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.’*” (CCC 1320)

8. In the Diocese of Salina catechetical preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation requires that all catechetical materials and textbooks be approved by the USCCB. These materials are found to be in conformity with the Catechism of the Catholic Church. For a current listing go to www.usccb.org/catechism.

9. “*To receive Confirmation one must be in the state of grace. One should receive the Sacrament of Penance in order to be cleansed for the gift of the Holy Spirit.*” (CCC 1310)

10. Service and ministry must be included as part of the preparation for the sacrament. It must not be implied, however, that Christian service and witness begin or end with Confirmation.

Sponsors

1. At the beginning of the immediate formation process, each candidate for Confirmation chooses a sponsor. (Intro to the Rite of Confirmation #5) The sponsor is encouraged to be:

- * an active participant in the preparation and formation of the candidate
- * a mentor
- * a fellow believer who remains involved with the candidate both before and after the celebration of Confirmation.

In light of the sponsor’s role and duties, a sponsor must be:

- * at least 16 years old unless there is a just reason determined by the pastor
- * be fully initiated themselves having received Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist

- * be one who actively participates in the sacramental life of the Church
- * not under canonical penalty, whether imposed or declared
- * be either male or female. (CIC 874)

“The sponsor’s function is to take care that the person confirmed behaves as a true witness of Christ and faithfully fulfils the duties inherent in this sacrament.” (CIC 892)

2. Potential sponsors from another parish must provide a certificate of verification from their current parish or pastor to the parish or pastor of the candidate to be confirmed. This certificate verifies that the sponsor is a fully initiated Catholic and in good standing with the Church.

3. Since parents have their own particular role in the faith formation of their children, and because of the unique aspects of the sponsor’s role, parents do not serve as sponsors for their own children. It is recommended that the candidate’s baptismal godparent serve as his/her sponsor, thus emphasizing more clearly the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation.

4. Appropriate catechesis for both sponsors and parents should be provided before or during the candidates catechetical formation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. The content of this catechesis should include the Theology of the Sacraments of Initiation, the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Christian disciple, and the significant role of the parent and sponsor in the life of the candidate.

5. Appropriate and ongoing catechesis (mystagogy) must be provided to the newly confirmed at the parish level as well as an invitation to parish ministries appropriate to the abilities of the newly Confirmed. This insures an opportunity for continued faith formation and Christian discipleship.

Planning Confirmation Ceremony

1. Each candidate for Confirmation should address a letter to the Bishop requesting Confirmation, giving reasons why he/she is seeking Confirmation, and describing the highlights of the preparation process.

2. The Bishop may wish to meet with the students briefly before the scheduled start of the liturgy. Please advise the Bishop’s office where this will take place.

3. Please let the Bishop know if there is a reception and/or dinner associated with the ceremony, and, if so, where this will be held.

4. Unless the Confirmation is held on a Sunday during a Proper Season (Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter) or on a Solemnity, the Ritual Mass for Confirmation will be used with red vestments. On a Sunday in Ordinary Time either the Sunday readings or those for the Sacrament of Confirmation may be selected.

5. Please send a copy of **the planning sheet for the liturgy** to the Bishop’s office at least one week prior to the Confirmation.

6. A group photograph may be taken with the Bishop in church immediately before or following Mass. Individual photographs with the bishop may be taken as time allows at the site of the reception.

Record of Confirmation

“The names of the confirmed with mention of the minister, the parents and the sponsors, the place and date of the conferral of Confirmation are to be noted in a record book in the parish archive; the pastor must advise the pastor of the place of Baptism about the conferral of Confirmation so that notation be made in the Baptismal Register.” (CIC 895) When a Confirmation takes place at the Cathedral, the parish records should indicate it took place at the Cathedral and recorded at the home parish (parish of baptism).