

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

(Revised 5/23/2019)

What is the age for confirmation?

Adults and adolescents who were baptized into the Catholic Church as infants, and who have been adequately prepared, are to be at least 8th grade or older, at the time they celebrate the sacrament (see *CIC*, c. 891).

The following are to be prepared for Confirmation within the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA):

- Anyone who is not baptized and is at least of catechetical age (7 years old)
- Anyone who is a baptized Christian seeking full communion with the Catholic Church;
- Anyone who was baptized Catholic but raised in another faith or with no faith.

If a young person was confirmed at baptism or through the RCIA process, may he or she be confirmed again as an adolescence?

No, because confirmation may not be repeated. Young people who have been confirmed may participate in a parish's confirmation preparation and celebration. At the time of confirmation, he or she could fill an appropriate liturgical role, such as a lector, greeter, or Eucharistic Minister.

Are young people who do not participate in any religious education program able to be confirmed?

Confirmation is always a possibility but it is important that the person be adequately prepared to celebrate this sacrament with integrity and understanding. Situations like this should be dealt with on an individual basis with the Pastor and/or Confirmation Coordinator.

Can parents/guardians demand that their children be confirmed?

No. Confirmation must be the free choice of the individual. However, parents/guardians may require their children to attend the preparation sessions.

Do Confirmation candidates need a saint's name?

According to Archdiocesan guidelines, candidates are to be confirmed with their baptismal name, as witness to the unity of the Sacraments of Initiation.

Who can serve as a confirmation sponsor?

Sponsors serve as ministers representing the faith community into which the candidate is being initiated. *Candidates select* their sponsors in consultation with the confirmation coordinator, and, in the case of youth candidates, their parents or guardians. It is recommended that one of the baptismal sponsors (godparents) serve as the Confirmation sponsor, if they still meet the other requirements and expectations for the role. A person who is serving as a sponsor must:

- Be designated by the one to be confirmed
- Be at least 16 years old
- Be a Catholic who has been confirmed, who has received their first Holy Communion, and who leads a life in harmony with the faith and role to be undertaken
- Not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared by an official Church authority
- Not be the father, mother or legal guardian of the one to be confirmed

May a candidate have more than one sponsor?

Yes.

May a spouse or fiancé serve as a confirmation sponsor?

It is generally not advisable for a spouse, fiancée, boyfriend, or girlfriend, to serve as sponsor. But she or he are most welcome to come to the classes and provide support in other ways.

May someone who cannot be present be a sponsor and may someone else fill in as a proxy?

Yes, however it is strongly recommended that someone nearby be chosen so that she or he can become more intimately involved in the candidate's preparation.

If a candidate is unable to be confirmed at his/her parish on the scheduled date, may he or she be confirmed at another parish?

Yes, this should be coordinated between the Pastors or Pastoral Coordinators of both parishes.

Should a person be confirmed prior to marriage?

If they can do so without serious inconvenience. Readiness for marriage presumes that the Catholic party has received the sacrament of Confirmation, which fully initiates a person into the Catholic faith. Preparation for Confirmation is to begin as part of the marriage preparation process in order that Confirmation may be conferred prior to marriage whenever possible. If this is not possible, with the help of the parish, it is important that the person celebrate confirmation as soon as he or she can.

Why isn't confirmation celebrated at the Catholic schools?

The parish is the center for sacramental celebrations and is the place where adult faith is lived out.