

## Confirmation Standards for the Diocese of Davenport

The following standards are integral to the process of preparation for Confirmation in the Diocese of Davenport. Therefore, they should be carefully included in all preparation programs, understood and embraced by all members of the team of catechists working to prepare youth for the Sacrament.

**Confirmation Age.** Those being confirmed in youth Confirmation programs in the Diocese of Davenport should receive the sacrament by the age of eighteen (18). Present practice: 7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Involvement of Parents/Guardians, Sponsors and the Faith Community.** The Confirmation process should provide for sufficient parent/guardian and sponsor involvement. In addition, the process should connect youth with the communal life of the larger faith community and provide opportunities for involvement of the faith community in the preparation process.

**Interview.** The readiness of the Confirmation candidate should be discerned through an interview with either a priest or catechist prior to reception of the sacrament.

**Knowledge of Christ.** The candidate should recognize the importance and presence of Jesus Christ in his/her life.

**Knowledge of Faith.** The candidate should demonstrate an understanding of the principal elements of the Catholic Faith, according to his/her age and ability, and be committed to ongoing learning and growth in faith.

**Retreat.** The candidate should attend at least one retreat.

- The format of the retreat should be different from that of regular classroom/program catechesis, and should deepen the prayer life of the young people through the use of creative programs to help them personally encounter Christ in the Sacraments.
- It is strongly recommended that the retreat take place off parish premises at a retreat site where the young people can truly "retreat" from life's daily routine and reflect upon their relationship with God.

**Sacramental Life.** The candidate is encouraged to participate in the sacramental and liturgical life of the parish by:

- actively participating in Mass every Sunday;
- receiving the Sacrament of Penance frequently; and
- intending to live a sacramental life until death.

**Service.** While service hours are not a diocesan requirement, parishes are strongly encouraged to incorporate a Christian service component into their Confirmation preparation programs.

**Confirmation Name.** The candidate may choose a Confirmation name. The baptismal name is always an appropriate name for Confirmation in order to show the relationship between the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. However, if desired, a special name may be chosen, in which case it should be that of a saint or a beatified.

**Confession before Confirmation.** “To receive Confirmation one must be in a state of grace.” (CCC 1310) The sacrament of Penance should be made available to the candidates and they should be encouraged to receive this sacrament within the month prior to their Confirmation, in order to be predisposed for the gift of the Holy Spirit.

**Preparation Program Resources.** Only textbooks which have been approved by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops are to be used in Confirmation preparation programs in the Diocese of Davenport. This Conformity Listing may be found on the following website, <http://www.usccb.org/about/evangelization-and-catechesis/subcommittee-on-catechism/upload/Current-Conformity-List.pdf>, and it is regularly updated. Programs not listed in this list may be used as a resource but not as a primary source of the Confirmation preparation.

**Overall Preparation Program.** The particular program by which these requirements are fulfilled in an individual parish is the prerogative of the pastor. If, as in most parishes, responsibility for confirmation preparation is delegated to another person (DRE, Youth Minister Leader, Confirmation Coordinator, etc.), the pastor should make certain that this person is competent, well-resourced and supported in every aspect of the task. The pastor and his delegate may determine the scheduling which is most appropriate for their parish and candidates.