

SECTION 7: CONFIRMATION

The following policies shall be followed in regard to the Sacrament of Confirmation:

7.1 CELEBRATION OF CONFIRMATION

- Confirmation is celebrated through anointing with chrism on the forehead which is done with the imposition of hands, and through the words prescribed in the liturgical books.
- For the valid celebration of confirmation, the chrism used must be that which has been blessed by a bishop.
- Confirmation is to be celebrated in a church or oratory, during the celebration of Mass.
- Confirmation may be celebrated elsewhere when there is the danger of death.
- Confirmation may be celebrated in other suitable places with the permission of the Archbishop or the Vicar General.

7.2 MINISTER OF CONFIRMATION

- The ordinary minister of confirmation is a bishop.
- Baptized Catholics are to be confirmed only by a bishop. Adult Catholics who are to be confirmed are to celebrate their confirmation at the annual celebration of confirmation when the bishop visits, or at the annual archdiocesan celebration of adult confirmation.
- Priests may confirm any baptized person who is in danger of death.
- Priests are to confirm those persons who they welcome into full communion with the Catholic Church.

7.3 SPONSORS

As far as possible a sponsor for the one to be confirmed should be present at the confirmation. It is desirable that one of the baptismal sponsors should be selected to be the sponsor at confirmation.

To be a sponsor for confirmation, a person must:

- Be designated by the person to be confirmed;
- Be at least sixteen years old;

- Be a Catholic who has been confirmed and who leads a life in harmony with the faith and the role of sponsor;
- Not be bound by any canonical penalty;
- Not be the parents, natural or adoptive, of the person being confirmed.

7.4 RECORDATION OF CONFIRMATION

Please see section 15.4.1.3, *Confirmation Registers*, of this policy manual for instructions on recording Confirmation.

On occasion, several parishes may join together for a regional celebration of confirmation. In such joint celebrations, all confirmations are recorded in the parish where the liturgy was celebrated and not in the various home parishes of those confirmed. As always, the parish of baptism is to be notified of the confirmation.

7.5 CONFIRMATION GARB

The traditional vesture for the newly baptized is a white robe and there is no tradition for vesting neophyte with a stole. The stole remains a symbol of ordained ministry, not a sign of the universal priesthood of the baptized. To show the relationship between baptism and confirmation, confirmands may be vested in a white robe, if any vesture is to be selected.

7.6 AGE OF CONFIRMATION

It is the policy of the archdiocese that Confirmation is to be celebrated in the eleventh grade. All parishes within the archdiocese are to adhere to this grade in establishing preparation programs for confirmation. This policy does not affect those persons of catechetical age, children or adults, who are received into the Church through the RCIA process. According to the rite, all three sacraments of initiation are to be celebrated in the same ceremony.

7.7 CONFIRMATION OF BAPTIZED PERSONS

Clergy and others involved in the RCIA are reminded that RCIA does not give priests the faculty to confirm baptized Catholics. Such confirmations are invalid, except in danger of death.

The RCIA does give priests the faculty to confirm persons who are welcomed into the Catholic Church. Therefore, priests are to confirm non-Catholics who are welcomed into full communion with the Catholic Church, as well as unbaptized persons age 7 or older.

It should be noted that the confirmation celebration in the Episcopal or Protestant denominations *are not* recognized as valid by the Catholic Church. Confirmations in the Orthodox Churches *are* recognized as valid.

RCIA ministers and coordinators should explain to any baptized Catholics in their RCIA programs that their confirmation will be celebrated either at the adult confirmation celebration at the cathedral or at the parish celebration of confirmation.

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