

## Synthesis of Discussions of the Confirmation Task Force

### Issue 1: Normative Age

	Advantages	Disadvantages
Restored Sequence (7-8 Years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More parental control/involvement (family catechesis)</li> <li>The largest number of candidates would be confirmed</li> <li>Follows principle of restored sequence (c. 842, 2)</li> <li>Heightens youth group as a youth group</li> <li>Youth more receptive to teachings/formation</li> <li>Focus on Eucharist (in formation)</li> <li>Greater Church identity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Challenge of Church to keep child engaged in ongoing religious education and future youth ministry</li> <li>Some difficulty for presiders to include children as full participants at liturgies (e.g., the homily)</li> <li>Challenge to trust the Holy Spirit (we only plant seeds)</li> <li>Danger of separate programs/liturgies for parish school/religious education candidates</li> </ul>
Junior High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More parental control</li> <li>Larger number would be confirmed</li> <li>Maintains religious education through Jr. High because programs are already established.</li> <li>More resources available (English/Spanish/Vietnamese)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of candidate investment –hormonal challenge</li> <li>Difficult for catechists to engage candidates who have a secular mindset.</li> <li>Danger of separate programs/liturgies for parish school/religious education candidates</li> <li>Competition with CYO and youth sports programs</li> <li>Challenge to trust the Holy Spirit (we only plant seeds)</li> <li>Challenge to keep young people in your ministry</li> </ul>
16 Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Personal maturity</li> <li>Youth desire to find identity</li> <li>More adult understanding of the faith (formation)</li> <li>Sense of community heightened (esp. with a youth group)</li> <li>Candidates take more ownership of the catechetical process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fewer confirmed</li> <li>Pressure of other activities would limit types process/formation</li> <li>Less parental control/involvement</li> <li>Difficult for catechists to engage candidates who have a secular mindset.</li> </ul>

## Synthesis of Discussions of the Confirmation Task Force

	Adults	High School	Junior High	Elementary	Primary
<b>Issue 2: Role of Parents or Guardians</b>		Invitation to journey with students Staying informed through meetings, newsletters, websites, etc. Financial assistance Participation at Mass	Willing to consent to child's participation Invitation to journey with students Regular and consistent involvement and participation Participation at Mass Responsible for child's attendance in sessions Staying informed through meetings, newsletters, Website, etc. Financial responsibility	Willing to consent to child's participation Invitation to journey with students Regular and consistent involvement and participation Participation at Mass Responsible for child's attendance in sessions Staying informed through meetings, newsletters, website, etc. Financial responsibility <i>If done independently</i> , parents are responsible --to prepare their own child and --to participate in discernment with the child and pastor. Recommend pastors would be wise to consult with DRE's	Willing to consent to child's participation Invitation to journey with students Regular and consistent involvement and participation Participation at Mass Responsible for child's attendance in sessions Staying informed through meetings, newsletters, website, etc. Financial responsibility <i>If done independently</i> , parents are responsible --to prepare their own child And --to participate in discernment with the child and pastor. Recommend pastors would be wise to consult with DRE's
<b>Issue 3: Role of Sponsors</b>	Meets canonical qualifications Regular Sunday Mass participation Potential participation in catechetical preparation Witness to the conferral of confirmation	Meets canonical qualifications Regular Sunday mass participation Periodic participation in catechetical preparation (in a group or with candidate) Willingness to share his/her faith experience Witness to the conferral of confirmation			

## Synthesis of Discussions of the Confirmation Task Force

	<b>Adults</b>	<b>High School</b>	<b>Junior High</b>	<b>Elementary</b>	<b>Primary</b>
<b>Issue 4: Preparation Content &amp; Process</b>	<p>Regular Sunday Mass participation Express a personal desire for Confirmation 12 hours (minimum) of sacramental preparation</p> <p><b>Content:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Creed (Christology and Ecclesiology)</li> <li>• Sacraments (emphasis on Confirmation/gifts of Holy Spirit)</li> <li>• Mass (Eucharist)</li> <li>• Moral decision making</li> <li>• Social ministry</li> <li>• Scripture</li> <li>• Prayer</li> </ul> <p>2 hours (minimum) of social service Catechetical sessions scheduled regularly Registration forms (i.e., baptismal certificate, reception as a Roman Catholic certificate, marriage issues) Personal interview Retreat experience (1 day) Choose a sponsor Meet periodically with sponsor</p>	<p>Regular Sunday Mass participation Express a personal desire for Confirmation 24 hours (minimum) of sacramental preparation over a 1 year minimum.</p> <p><b>Content:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Creed (Christology and Ecclesiology)</li> <li>• Sacraments (emphasis on Confirmation/gifts of Holy Spirit)</li> <li>• Mass (Eucharist)</li> <li>• Moral decision-making</li> <li>• Social ministry</li> <li>• Scripture</li> <li>• Prayer</li> </ul> <p>24 hours (minimum) of social service Catechetical sessions scheduled regularly Registration forms (i.e., baptismal certificate) Retreat experience (1 weekend) Personal Interview Choose a sponsor Meet periodically with sponsor</p>	<p>Regular Sunday Mass Participation Express personal desire for Confirmation 2 consecutive years of Religious Education or Catholic School participation at grade level <b>PLUS</b> 12 hours (minimum) of sacramental preparation</p> <p><b>Content:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sacrament of Confirmation</li> <li>• Rite of Confirmation</li> </ul> <p><i>If not in Religious Education or Catholic School then requirement is for 36 hours (minimum) of supervised parish-approved sacramental preparation</i></p> <p><b>Content:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Creed (Christology) and Ecclesiology)</li> <li>• Sacraments (emphasis on Confirmation/Gifts of Holy Spirit)</li> <li>• Mass (Eucharist)</li> <li>• Moral Decision-making</li> <li>• Social ministry</li> <li>• Scripture</li> </ul>	<p>Regular Sunday Mass participation Express a personal desire to receive confirmation 2 consecutive years of Religious Education or Catholic School participation at grade level <b>PLUS</b> 12 hours (minimum) of sacramental preparation</p> <p><b>Content:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sacrament of Confirmation</li> <li>• Rite of Confirmation</li> </ul> <p><i>If not in Religious Education or Catholic School then requirement is for 36 hours (minimum) of supervised parish-approved sacramental preparation</i></p> <p><b>Content:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Creed (Christology) and Ecclesiology)</li> <li>• Sacraments (emphasis on Confirmation/Gifts of Holy Spirit)</li> <li>• Mass (Eucharist)</li> <li>• Moral Decision-making</li> <li>• Social ministry</li> <li>• Scripture</li> <li>• Prayer</li> </ul> <p><i>If not in Religious Education or</i></p>	<p>Regular Sunday Mass participation Express a personal desire to receive confirmation Religious Education or Catholic School participation at grade level <b>PLUS</b> 12 hours (minimum) of sacramental preparation</p> <p><b>Content:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sacrament of Confirmation</li> <li>• Rite of Confirmation</li> </ul> <p><i>If not in Religious Education or Catholic School then requirement is for 36 hours (minimum) of supervised parish-approved sacramental preparation</i></p> <p><b>Content:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Creed (Christology) and Ecclesiology)</li> <li>• Sacraments (emphasis on Confirmation/Gifts of Holy Spirit)</li> <li>• Mass (Eucharist)</li> <li>• Moral Decision-making</li> <li>• Social ministry</li> <li>• Scripture</li> <li>• Prayer</li> </ul> <p><i>If not in Religious Education or</i></p>

<p><b>Issue 4 (Continue)</b></p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prayer</li> </ul> <p>12 hours (minimum) of social service  Registration forms (i.e. baptismal certificate)  Retreat experience (1 day)  Meet with sponsor periodically</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prayer</li> </ul> <p>8 (eight) hours of social service  Registration forms (i.e. baptismal certificate)  Retreat experience (1 day)  Meet with sponsor periodically</p> <p><i>If not in Religious Education or Catholic School and not yet received Penance/1<sup>st</sup> Communion then requirement is for 48 hours of supervised parish approved sacramental preparation.</i></p> <p><b>Content:</b>  <u><b>36 hours</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Creed (Christology) and Ecclesiology)</li> <li>• Sacraments (emphasis on Confirmation/Gifts of Holy Spirit)</li> <li>• Mass (Eucharist)</li> <li>• Moral Decision-making</li> <li>• Social ministry</li> <li>• Scripture</li> <li>• Prayer</li> </ul> <p><u><b>12 hours</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sacrament of Penance and 1<sup>st</sup> Communion</li> </ul>	<p><i>Catholic School and not yet received Penance/1<sup>s</sup> Communion then requirement is for 48 hours (minimum) of supervised parish-approved sacramental preparation</i></p> <p><b>Content:</b>  <u><b>36 hours</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Creed (Christology) and Ecclesiology)</li> <li>• Sacraments (emphasis on Confirmation/Gifts of Holy Spirit)</li> <li>• Mass (Eucharist)</li> <li>• Moral Decision-making</li> <li>• Social ministry</li> <li>• Scripture</li> <li>• Prayer</li> </ul> <p><u><b>12 hours</b></u></p> <p>Sacrament of Penance and 1<sup>st</sup> Communion  6 hours (minimum) of social service  Registration forms (i.e. baptismal certificate)  Retreat experience (1 day)  Meet with sponsor periodically</p>
--------------------------------------	--	--	---	---	--

<p><b>Issue 5: Locus/Process</b></p>	<p>Parish-based sacramental preparation is normative. The Church recognizes that parents are the first educators of their children (c.774, &amp;2) and together with the pastor discern the child's readiness for the celebration of Confirmation. In matters of discernment, pastors are encouraged to consult with the parish DRE.</p>
<p><b>Issue 6: Inter-parochial preparation/celebration</b></p>	<p>Parish-based sacramental preparation is normative. There may be instances where parishes may find it useful to collaborate with each other in preparation and celebration of confirmation. Deanery and diocesan catechetical and liturgical celebrations are not discouraged.</p> <p>Examples of inter-parochial collaboration might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Candidates' participation in a neighboring parish's retreat when unable to make their own parish's retreat.</li> <li>• Diocesan retreat for sponsors.</li> <li>• Diocesan celebration of adult candidates at the Cathedral.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Issue 7: Staffing</b></p>	<p>One individual should be designated by the pastor to oversee all confirmation processes in the parish (Hereafter referred to as the <i>Confirmation Coordinator</i>.)</p> <p>The staff of a parish confirmation program should include clergy, Confirmation Coordinator, catechists and assistants.</p> <p>Those catechists, assistants, etc. who work directly with children and/or youth (18 and under) must meet all diocesan Safe Environment guidelines.</p>
<p><b>Issue 8: Catechist Formation</b></p>	<p>The Church recognizes that parents are the primary educators of their children. However, they must work in partnership with catechists formed and recognized by the competent authority.</p> <p>Each parish must have at least one <i>certified</i> catechist for each confirmation process.</p> <p>Certification may be obtained by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Diocesan School of Ministry</li> <li>2. California Catholic conference</li> <li>3. Masters in theology or related subject</li> <li>4. Equivalent certificate as determined by diocesan Office of Religious Education</li> </ol> <p>The Confirmation Coordinator and all catechists must be fully initiated, practicing Catholics in good standing. Those who assist catechists are encouraged to be fully formatted in the faith.</p> <p>The Confirmation Coordinator should ensure ongoing formation of all catechists and assistants.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Issue 9: Relationship with School, RE Program, Youth Group, RCIA</b></p>	<p>School: Confirmation preparation takes place independently of religious education in schools (classroom context). The parish is the place for sacramental preparation.</p> <p>RE: Oversees confirmation preparation for all Catholics baptized in infancy.</p> <p>Youth: Confirmation preparation takes place independently of but in cooperation with the youth program.</p> <p>RCIA: Those unbaptized or to be received into the Church age 7 or over are prepared for the sacraments of initiation through the RCIA process.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Issue 10: Role of the Priest</b></p>	<p>Bishop: Determines the normative age for Confirmation. Administers Confirmation for those baptized as Catholics in infancy. Grants faculties for presbyters to confirm when appropriate.</p> <p>Pastor: Designates Confirmation Coordinator. Approves and recognizes catechists, e.g., by blessing them annually, seeing to their ongoing education, etc. Seeks the faculty to confirm baptized Catholics when necessary. Chooses from diocesan-approved Confirmation curricula* after consulting with parish RE Director. Oversees preparation of Confirmation liturgy based on diocesan guidelines. *other self-written programs may be approved by the diocesan Office of Religious Education.</p> <p>Other priests: Works with Confirmation coordinator as needed, especially when working with multiple language groups.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Issue 11: Liturgical Celebration of Confirmation</b></p>	<p>The confirmation liturgy must be scheduled with the office of the bishop well in advance. Prior to the liturgy, guidelines and an Information Sheet are sent to the Pastor.</p> <p>Confirmation liturgies are celebrated as parish events with candidates of all ages.</p> <p>Because of the number of candidates, more than one Confirmation liturgy may be necessary.</p>