



Diocese of Cheyenne

Office of the Bishop

Decree Concerning the Faculty for Celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation

We find ourselves in extraordinary times due to the Corona Virus (Covid-19) pandemic which has seriously affected our ability as Church to safely gather to celebrate sacraments because of physical distancing, the limits on public gatherings and the danger of transmitting the virus. At Easter, we were unable to celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation with catechumens, candidates seeking full communion with the Catholic Church and, with special delegation, adult Catholics wishing to be confirmed. Normally, I would be celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation with youth and others during the Easter Season, but this was not possible. Also, some parishes might have planned to begin preparing baptized Catholics who were not confirmed at the customary age, and they would like to complete that preparation and have these individuals confirmed.

Gratefully, the sacrifices we have made appear to have had a positive effect, and there will be opportunities for us to begin to gather for worship, despite ongoing limitations. While I would like pastors, when rescheduling the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation, to arrange for me to celebrate the Sacrament with their youth, I recognize that the danger of the virus persists, and that infections may increase and lead to the resumption of restrictions. With this in mind, and with the desire that those who have been prepared will be able to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation, I hereby decree the following:

Priests are delegated the faculty to confirm Catholics who were not confirmed when they were baptized and who are at least in seventh (7th) grade (approximately twelve (12) or thirteen (13) years old) being suitably prepared and properly disposed for the celebration of the Sacrament.¹

Priests are reminded that they already have the faculty to confirm by virtue of the law or faculties of the Diocese of Cheyenne:

- Those who are at least seven (7) years old and with the use of reason who are received into the Church through baptism or professions of faith.²
- Those baptized Catholics who apostatized from the Church or who without fault were brought up in a non-Catholic religion or adhered to a non-Catholic religion (but non-practicing Catholic).³

¹ See *Codex Iuris Canonici Auctoritate Ionnis Pauli PP. II Promulgatus* (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1989) cc. 97 §2; 882; 844 §1; 885 §2; 887; 888; 891; National Conference of Catholic Bishops, National Statutes for the Catechumenate, November 11, 1986, nn. 28 c; 29; Joseph A. Fiorenza, decree *Complimentary Norm: Canon 891*, August 21, 2001; David L. Ricken, DD, JCL, pastoral letter *Age of Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation*, August 15, 2002.

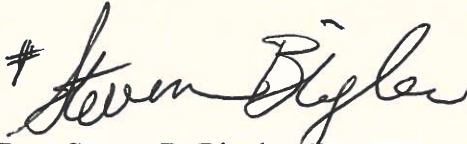
² See *CIC*, cc. 97 §2; 883, 2^o; Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, September 1, 1988, nn. 14; 481; NSC, nn. 12-13; 18.

³ See Pontifical Commission for the Interpretation of the Decrees of the Second Vatican Council, interpretation, December 21, 1979. *AAS* 72 (1980) 105; NCS, nn. 28; 29.

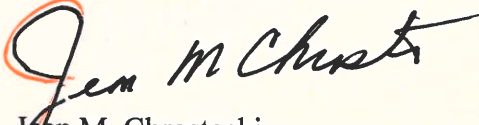
- Those who are in danger of death, even if they are under seven (7) years of age.⁴

These faculties are effective immediately and will remain in effect through December 31, 2020.

Given in Cheyenne, this May 14, 2020

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven Biegler". There is a small asterisk-like mark above the first letter 'S'.

Most Rev. Steven R. Biegler, DD, STL
Bishop of Cheyenne

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jean M Chrostoski". The 'J' is written in a large, stylized cursive font.

Jean M. Chrostoski
Chancellor

⁴ See *CIC*, cc. 97 §2; 883, 3°.