



# Diocese of Cheyenne

Office of the Bishop

## Decree Concerning the Faculty for Celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation

The impact of the Coronavirus (Covid-19) has diminished with fewer new infections, a decrease of active cases, and the availability of vaccines; yet the pandemic has not ended. There is also the threat of new variants of the virus which may be more infectious and deadly. People are still being infected, becoming gravely ill, and even dying. Thus, it is essential to maintain safety measures: to wash hands, to wear face masks, and to practice physical distancing.

The celebration of Easter and the various Sacraments of Initiation are approaching. The law itself provides the faculty to confirm those being baptized or received into full communion. However, Catholics, baptized as infants who missed the opportunity to be confirmed in their youth and who are now adults, also desire to be confirmed, particularly if they are looking forward to being married. Priests need a special delegation to have the faculty to confirm them. Instead of asking each priest to request the faculty, I have decided to extend a general faculty to confirm through June 30, 2021. In addition, because of the pandemic, I may not be able to come to a particular parish to confirm the youth. In such a case, I want to give the faculty to confirm to priests, especially pastors. However, I intend to be present to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation with the youth, so the priests should plan that I will be present to do these celebrations.

With all these things in mind, and with the desire that those who have been preparing to be confirmed 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 the seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) grade (approximately twelve (12) or thirteen (13) years old) being suitably prepared and properly disposed for the celebration of the Sacrament.<sup>1</sup>

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.<sup>2</sup>

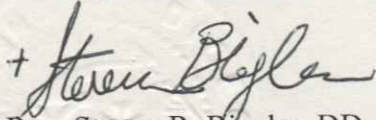
<sup>1</sup> See *Codex Iuris Canonici Auctoritate Ionnis Pauli PP. II Promulgatus* (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1989) cc. 97 §2; 882; 844 §1; 885 §2; 887; 888; 891; National Conference of Catholic Bishops, National Statutes for the Catechumenate, November 11, 1986, nn. 28 c; 29; Joseph 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.

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

- 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).<sup>3</sup>
- Those who are in danger of death, even if they are under seven (7) years of age.<sup>4</sup>

These faculties are effective immediately and will remain in effect through June 30, 2021.

Given in Cheyenne, on March 4, 2021



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



Jean M. Chrostoski  
Chancellor

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<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> See *CIC*, cc. 97 §2; 883, 3<sup>o</sup>.