

Clarifications Regarding Certain Sacraments

Children who are to be received into the church at the Easter Vigil (the Elect and Candidates) and who are of the age 7 or older are to receive all the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation). They are **not** to be held back from receiving their Sacraments until they are older or of high school age. Paragraph 3 of the *Archdiocesan Policy for Youth Confirmation* clearly states that unless there is grave reason the children must receive all their Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil as is their right.

3. *According to Canon 852 §1, children with the use of reason who are seeking Baptism or full communion have the same rights as adults. Therefore, if children are unbaptized, they are normally to be fully initiated at the Easter Vigil; that is, they are to celebrate Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. This is required, except for grave reason, by Canon 866 and the ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS, National Statutes of the Catechuminate #14 and #26. If children (baptized, non-Catholic) are received into the faith, whether at the Easter Vigil or a Sunday Eucharist, they are to celebrate both Confirmation and Eucharist. No special permission or delegation is needed.*

All children who receive their Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil and their parents are to be encouraged to continue participating in the parish Faith Formation/Religious Education programs.

Baptisms of children or youth at one of the schismatic churches, religious communities, or organizations NOT affiliated with the Roman Catholic Church whose baptismal certificate states that they were baptized “in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit” are valid but illicit.* These children or youth are to participate in the OCIA (adapted for children) and are to be received into the church at the Easter Vigil at which time they are to receive First Holy Communion and Confirmation. As noted above, they are **not** to be held back from receiving their Sacraments until they are older or of high school age.

As with all children who receive their Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil, they and their parents are to be encouraged to continue participating in the parish Faith Formation/Religious Education programs.

- The list of schismatic churches | religious communities | or organizations not affiliated with the Roman Catholic Church may be found here:
(<https://files.ecatholic.com/17613/documents/2022/11/221121List%20of%20Schismatic%20Churches.pdf?t=1669069536000>)
 - Please note that there have been certificates from Holy Resurrection, a private chapel, in Rio Rancho that show the baptism was conferred by Father Anthony E. Wohrlin or Bishop A. Wohrlin. This minister was also associated with the listed schismatic church, Mission San Jose de Guadalupe Traditional Roman Catholic Church.

***Note:** *If a pastor has a serious doubt about the validity of a previous baptism, a conditional baptism should be performed. This doubt can arise if it is uncertain whether a baptism was ever performed or if there is a credible reason to believe a previous baptism was invalid. The conditional baptism ensures that a person who needs baptism receives it, while also respects the Church's teaching that baptism cannot be repeated if it was validly conferred.*

Catholic youth who are asking to be prepared for the Sacrament of Confirmation and who are attending a Catholic School must participate in their parish's, minimum 2-year, formation program for Confirmation. The 2019 *Archdiocesan Policy for Youth Confirmation* paragraphs 12.1, the **Learner Phase** or Year 1, may, however, be fulfilled by daily religion classes at a Catholic school since faith formation in Catholic schools goes beyond simply learning facts about the Catholic faith. It also aims to help students develop a personal relationship with God and integrate their faith into their daily lives.

The parish is to include those youth who attend Catholic school and who are entering into the **Learner Phase** of preparation for Confirmation in scheduled retreats, service opportunities, and other community building activities. The final preparation prior to the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation, the **Disciples in Training Phase**, is to be completed at the parish.

12. *Confirmation preparation is one of many opportunities for ongoing faith formation in the life of young people. It is the obligation of parents to see that their children continue to participate in the catechesis and other faith formation offered by the parish throughout their high school years, even after the celebration of Confirmation. The norm in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe is for Confirmation preparation to be a minimum two-year formation program that is made up of three phases and will include the following:*
- 12.1 *Prior to entrance into the final preparation period for Confirmation, young people should have recently completed at least one year of catechesis or religious formation at the parish. Known as the **Learner Phase** of the Comprehensive Model for Youth Ministry, this first year may take place for adolescents in 8th grade.*
- 12.2 *A final period of Confirmation preparation is the **Disciple in Training Phase**, it is one year long and is held at the local parish for all candidates, including those attending Catholic high schools (9th thru 12th grade). This preparation is to include orientation, catechesis on the Sacrament of Confirmation, spiritual and community outreach activities, retreats, and the practical and liturgical arrangements for the celebration.*

Adult Catholics, age 19 and older, who are catechized, have received their First Communion, are active and participating member of their parishes, are highly motivated to celebrate the sacraments, are aware of the major doctrines and practices of the Catholic faith, and are committed to living after the manner of Jesus may be prepared to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. The parish formation process of six or more sessions should fit the needs of these individuals with some candidates needing longer periods of catechesis and formation than others. Baptized Catholics who have received their First Communion should **not** be placed in the OCIA.

The confirmation of adults takes place at the annual Archdiocesan celebration of Adult Confirmation or in their parish on the date scheduled for confirmations to take place. If the celebration also includes the parish youth confirmandi, care should be taken to acknowledge and present both the adults and the youth candidates separately.

Un-catechized adult Catholics who have been baptized but have not received their First Communion should participate in the parish OCIA process. Once prepared to receive their Sacraments of Initiation, these adults, at the Easter Vigil, *will profess baptismal faith, receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, and participate in the Eucharist (OCIA, 409).*

Neither canon law of the Catholic Church nor the Archdiocese of Santa Fe requires that the parties for marriage be confirmed. Canon 1065 states: “*If they can do so without serious inconvenience, Catholics who have not yet received the sacrament of confirmation are to receive it before being admitted to the sacrament of Marriage.*” (<https://files.ecatholic.com/17613/documents/2017/11/2012-08%20%20Confirmation%20of%20Adults.pdf>) The reception of the sacrament of confirmation is strongly encouraged if it can be done without serious inconvenience and if the conditions for a fruitful reception of confirmation can be satisfied. However, individual parishes **may not** make this a requirement for marriage. (<https://files.ecatholic.com/17613/documents/2017/11/Confirmation%20FAQs.pdf?t=1511454817000>)

However, if adequate preparation for confirmation is not possible and/or there are other **prohibiting factors**, the marriage **should be celebrated** and, as soon as possible after the wedding, the person should continue preparation to celebrate the sacrament of confirmation.

(<https://files.ecatholic.com/17613/documents/2017/11/2012-08%20%20Confirmation%20of%20Adults.pdf>)

The following situations either prevent or delay the celebration of confirmation and must be resolved before the Catholic is confirmed (although he/she may certainly participate in the confirmation preparation):

1. Living together but not married
2. Married outside the Church
3. Married outside the Church and in need of an annulment

The celebration of the marriage must take place before people in the situations described above are confirmed.

If someone is divorced and not remarried or not co-habiting, he/she **may be confirmed**.

(<https://files.ecatholic.com/17613/documents/2017/11/2012-08%20%20Confirmation%20of%20Adults.pdf>)

The *Code of Canon Law* of the Catholic Church (*Canon 882*), states that “the ordinary minister of confirmation is a bishop”. However, it also allows for priests [presbyters] provided with this faculty by law or by special grant to validly administer confirmation.

The faculty to confirm **must be requested** by priests when:

- The person to be confirmed is an already BAPTIZED CATHOLIC and is NOT in danger of death (*Canon 884, §1*). He/she must not have been validly confirmed previously.
- The person to be confirmed was previously received into the full communion of the Catholic Church and has not been validly confirmed previously.
 - *Note: this is the case with parish confirmation ceremonies when the bishop cannot be present. Also, the priest may request faculties to confirm a Catholic who is not already confirmed and is preparing for marriage (Canon 1065, §1).*

Within the boundaries of his parish, **pastors and parochial vicars can confirm by law without requesting faculties** when:

- Baptizing a person who is age 7 or older. Per *Canons 883, §2* and *866*, Confirmation and Holy Communion are also to be administered to the same persons during the same liturgy unless serious reasons prevent this.
 - *Note: this takes place at the Easter Vigil, where “the Elect” are baptized, confirmed and receive Holy Communion.*
- Receiving a validly baptized, non-Catholic Christian age 7 or older into the Catholic faith. Per *Canon 883, §2* Confirmation and Holy Communion are to follow.
 - *Note: this also occurs most frequently at the Easter Vigil, when “Candidates” are welcomed into the Church and receive the sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Communion.*

This section also applies to those priests who have been given a mandate to confirm (for example, Vicars General, Vicars Forane, and other priests to whom the Bishop entrusts this responsibility).

Any priest can confirm without delegation when:

- A person is in danger of death (*Canon 883, §3*)
Note: the person is to be baptized first, if not already baptized. The person to be confirmed does not need to be age 7 or older.