



DIOCESE OF LAFAYETTE

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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

March 9, 2023

All Priests - Diocese of Lafayette

Dear Monsignor/Father:

The sacrament of Confirmation represents the great day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles. In that moment the Apostles were given the light and courage to fulfill the mission given by the Lord Jesus. That mission was to go out into the whole world and teach the good news of the Gospel. We receive that same Holy Spirit in the sacrament of Confirmation. Every Baptized Christian shares in the mission of the Apostles and is strengthened and enlightened by the Holy Spirit in Confirmation. By word and example, we teach the good news of the Gospel.

The normal age for receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Diocese of Lafayette is transitioning to the eighth (8th) grade. See Diocesan Policy No. 310.7 dated February 28, 2023, for details. For a variety of reasons, some adult Catholics have not yet received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Confirmation, along with Baptism and First Holy Communion completes full initiation as a Catholic.

For this reason, I am extending to all priests, provided they are Pastors or Parochial Administrators, the faculty to confirm Baptized Catholics who are eighteen (18) years or older during the celebration of one Mass on Pentecost Sunday or its Vigil. Candidates must meet all of the normal canonical requirements for the sacrament, if married, married in the Church and must participate in at least two sessions preparing them for the sacraments. These sessions should include:

1. The Articles of the Creed
2. The Seven Sacraments
3. The Ten Commandments
4. Prayer

The rite is to be administered according to the proper ritual for Confirmation found in "The Order of Confirmation" or the "Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults". The Candidates must select a sponsor and their Confirmation noted in their place of Baptism and the Confirmation record book.

Please make this invitation to your parishioners well in advance of Pentecost Sunday. This may be done in your bulletins, a homily on the Sacrament at Mass and in the regular announcements on Sunday. I thank you for your efforts in this important initiative and your pastoral ministry.

With every good wish, I am,

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend J. Douglas Deshotel, D.D.
Bishop of Lafayette

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