

**Planning Guide for the  
Celebration of Confirmation with  
The Most Rev. J. Douglas Deshotel, D.D., Bishop of Lafayette  
or The Most Rev. C. Michael Jarrell, Bishop Emeritus**

- The Ritual Mass for Confirmation is normally celebrated with the readings chosen from the Lectionary in the section for Confirmation. On Sundays where the Ritual Mass for Confirmation is allowed, the readings may be chosen from the Sunday liturgy or from the section of the Lectionary for Confirmation. This is left to the discretion of the pastor.
- Confirmation Ritual Masses may not be celebrated on the following days:
  - Holy Thursday and the Easter Triduum; the Sundays of Advent, Lent, and the Easter season, all Solemnities (including proper solemnities); All Souls' Day; Ash Wednesday; the weekdays of Holy Week; and the days within the Octave of Easter.
    - On these days the Mass proper of the day with its proper readings must be used.
  - The Ordo provides specific information regarding the use of ritual Masses. Fr. Alexander Albert, Director of the Office of Worship, may also be consulted for clarification (337-261-5505).
- Announcements should be made before the entrance procession or be included in the liturgy program.
- Music before the ceremony may be desirable. However, a period of sacred silence should also be observed before the liturgy begins.
- A master of ceremonies will accompany Bishop Deshotel at each Confirmation unless the pastor has been informed that other arrangements have been made.
- The bishop will bring his own alb, crozier, miter, oil stock and ritual book.
- When scheduling servers for Confirmation with the bishop, it is helpful to have two additional servers assigned who will function solely as miter and crosier bearers. The seating for the miter and crosier bearers should be in close proximity to the celebrants chair but not flanking it.
- In determining the stations for the distribution of Holy Communion, care must be taken to utilize the bishop, concelebrating/attending priests and assisting deacons before scheduling Extraordinary Ministers for the distribution of Holy Communion. If the master of ceremonies is a priest or deacon, he is to be included as he is an ordinary minister for the distribution for Holy Communion.
- The bishop will be available for both group and individual pictures after the celebration of Mass. It should be encouraged that the newly confirmed take only one picture with the bishop. A member of the confirmation team or other parish volunteer should be present throughout this time to coordinate the taking of pictures.
- Confirmation certificates are to be given after the Mass, not during.
- Confirmation candidates are to wear regular Sunday dress or gowns. They are not allowed to wear stoles.
- Please remember to have sacramental registers available for the Bishop or Vicar to review and sign during their visit.
- Please provide a place for parking for the celebrant, preferably covered or in proximity to cover
- When a Vicar or Dean is the celebrant, send the attached form directly to that dean or vicar. When the celebrant is the bishop, send it to the Office of Worship.

## THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

### ProceSSIONal

If the Confirmation class is small, the candidates may be included in the procession. The candidates should not genuflect individually if entering in procession. They should genuflect together once each pew is filled or upon a signal when all are in place.

The entrance song should be sung by the congregation.

Incense is recommended especially on feast days and solemnities. The use of incense is left to the discretion of the pastor.

The procession may include a thurifer, a cross bearer, candle bearers, miter and crosier bearers, the lectors, a deacon carrying the Book of the Gospels, concelebrating priests and the bishop. If there is no deacon, a lector may carry the Book of the Gospels. The Lectionary is not to be carried in procession. It must be placed on the ambo prior to the beginning of Mass.

When the bishop presides at Mass the proper place for the deacon(s) to process is behind the bishop. When carrying the Book of the Gospels, the deacon processes behind the servers.

The miter and crosier bearers also process behind the bishop.

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### Entrance Song

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### Penitential Act or Sprinkling Rite

Pastors may choose either a Penitential Act or the Sprinkling Rite. If the Kyrie is sung, the Confiteor is said.

Choose one: \_\_\_\_\_ Sprinkling Rite  
\_\_\_\_\_ Penitential Act  
\_\_\_\_\_ Confiteor + Kyrie (recited \_\_\_\_\_ or sung \_\_\_\_\_)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Tropes

### Glory to God

The Gloria is omitted only when the Ritual Mass of Confirmation cannot be celebrated, i.e., the Sundays of Advent and Lent. On weekdays of Advent and Lent, the Gloria is to be sung or said.

### Collect

The Collect is taken from the Roman Missal under the Ritual Masses of Confirmation unless Confirmation is being celebrated on a day in which ritual Masses are not allowed. In such case the orations are taken from the Mass proper for the day.

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

When the Ritual Mass for Confirmation is used the readings are taken from the texts for Confirmation in the Lectionary for Ritual Masses, Volume IV #764-768. The readings of the day may also be used especially when the sacrament is being celebrated on Sundays. On days in which Confirmation is celebrated where ritual Masses are not permitted, the readings must be taken from the proper Mass of the day. Readings should be read by the Confirmation candidates.

**First Reading** (Outside Easter Time: Old Testament; During Easter Time: Acts)

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**Responsorial Psalm**

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It is preferable to sing the Responsorial Psalm, but it may be read.

**Second Reading** (Outside Easter time: Acts/Epistle; During Easter Time: Epistle)

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**Gospel Acclamation** (must be sung, not recited)

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**Gospel**

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The gospel is proclaimed by an assisting deacon. If a deacon is not present, either the pastor or the associate pastor is to proclaim the gospel. When the bishop presides, the deacon or priest proclaiming the gospel receives the blessing from the bishop. He should kneel for the blessing if able. The Book of the Gospels or the Lectionary is brought to the bishop to be revered after the gospel is proclaimed. The gospel is to be proclaimed from a proper liturgical book, either the Book of the Gospels or the Lectionary. The gospel is not to be proclaimed from a binder.

## ORDER OF CONFIRMATION

### Presentation of the Candidates

The presenter should be an adult who has journeyed with the Confirmation candidates in their preparation for the Sacrament, such as the Pastor, the DRE or the Confirmation Coordinator. The presentation should be brief. Example: "Bishop Deshotel, I present to you the Confirmation Candidates of N. parish. I testify to their readiness for the Sacrament of Confirmation." No response is made by the candidates. The presenter is not to call the individual names of the candidates.

### Homily

The homily is given by the bishop.

### Renewal of Baptismal Promises

The candidates stand at the invitation of the bishop. The congregation remains seated. The response to the bishop's questions should be uniform, rehearsed, and audible. **Please ask the candidates to respond in a clear, firm voice.** The response to these questions is "I do." The baptismal promises end with the candidates and congregation responding "Amen" after the bishop gives his assent to the profession by proclaiming the faith of the Church.

### **Laying on of Hands**

If the number to be confirmed is very large, the bishop may associate other priests to himself to assist with the anointing. Only those priests associated with him lay hands over all those to be confirmed.

### **The Anointing with Chrism**

Unless the pastor has been informed otherwise, the bishop will stand during the anointing. The sponsors place their right hand on the candidate's right shoulder. The candidate, not the sponsor, should stand directly in front of the bishop. The candidates may choose a saint's name or use their baptismal name. This name should be clearly visible on a name tag or a card held by the candidate or sponsor.

The bishop anoints each candidate saying: "Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit." The candidate responds: "Amen." The bishop then says: "Peace be with you." The candidate responds: "And with your spirit." Candidates do not shake hands with the bishop.

The bishop does not require the pastor or another minister to hold his oil stock. If someone other than the bishop celebrates the sacrament, he may be assisted by the pastor or another minister.

There should be a continuous flow of candidates in procession to the bishop. It is not desirable for each candidate to wait in their pew until the preceding candidate has been anointed.

Hymns may be sung or music played throughout the anointing. The music should begin after a few candidates have been anointed in order that the congregation may hear the bishop pronounce the formula for Confirmation.

### **Washing of Hands**

Preference would be a small wet sponge with a few drops of liquid soap on it, along with water for rinsing and a towel. The servers kneel before the bishop who is seated at the chair for this washing.

### **Universal Prayer**

A copy of the Universal Prayer from the Confirmation Ritual is enclosed as an option. Nevertheless, the Universal Prayer may be written by the candidates or obtained from another source. The Universal Prayer should always follow the structure found in the Roman Missal (Appendix V, "Examples of Formularies for the Universal Prayer) and the guidelines of the General Instruction of the Roman Missal, no. 70.

The reader of the Universal Prayer should proceed to the ambo while the bishop is washing his hands. The reader begins the Universal Prayer after the bishop has offered the invitation to pray. After the final petition, the reader should turn toward the bishop as a signal that the concluding prayer may be offered.

In the absence of a deacon, the reader(s) may be from the newly confirmed.

## **THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

### **Presentation of the Gifts**

The gifts are normally presented by the newly confirmed. Only those elements used for the celebration of Mass are to be presented (bread and wine).

If Holy Communion is to be distributed under both species, additional chalices should be brought to the altar by the deacon or servers at the Preparation of the Gifts. These additional chalices may either be already filled with wine, or wine from the flagon may be poured into the chalices during the Preparation of the Gifts. The Precious Blood is not to be consecrated in a flagon or cruet.

### **Preface**

The Preface of the Holy Spirit I or II is used when the Ritual Mass for Confirmation is being celebrated. The preface proper for the day is used on occasions when the Ritual Mass for Confirmation is not permitted.

**Preface Acclamation** (Holy, Holy, Holy should be sung).

### **Variable parts of the Eucharistic Prayer**

Please note that the Ritual Mass for Confirmation contains proper intercessions for Eucharistic Prayers I, II, and III. The bishop will use these intercessions.

**Mystery of Faith** (should be sung).

**Amen** (should be sung).

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Recited or chanted by all. A musical selection of the Our Father which excludes congregational participation is not to be used.

**Fraction Rite** (the Lamb of God should be sung).

### **Distribution of Communion**

Communion may be distributed under both forms.

If Extraordinary Ministers of Communion are needed, they should take their places in the sanctuary according to the norms set forth by the General Instruction.

### **Prayer after Communion and Final Blessing**

Following the Prayer after Communion, the pastor may offer a few closing remarks and an invitation to the reception.

The bishop will use the pontifical blessing. In this instance, the deacon says nothing after the bishop says, "The Lord be with you." The deacon dismisses the congregation using one of the dismissals found in the Roman Missal.

### **Recessional Song**

A final hymn or instrumental music should be played in order to conclude the liturgy as the ministers process. The bishop will go to the reception to meet the families of the newly confirmed and other guests.

The Bishop will remain vested to receive people and to be available for pictures. Therefore, the procession out of church will flow directly to the place of reception.

## Confirmation: Universal Prayer

- Bishop:** My dear brothers and sisters,  
let us humbly pray to God the almighty Father  
and be of one mind in our prayer,  
just as faith, hope and charity,  
which proceed from his Holy Spirit, are one.
- Deacon/Reader:** For these his servants,  
whom the gift of the Holy Spirit has confirmed:  
that, planted in faith and grounded in love,  
they may bear witness to Christ the Lord  
by their way of life,  
let us pray to the Lord.
- Deacon/Reader:** For their parents and sponsors:  
that by word and example  
they may continue to encourage  
those whom they have sponsored in the faith  
to follow in the footsteps of Christ,  
let us pray to the Lord.
- Deacon/Reader:** For the holy Church of God,  
together with **N.** our Pope, **N.** our Bishop,  
and all the Bishops:  
that, gathered by the Holy Spirit,  
the Church may grow and increase in unity of faith and love  
until the coming of the Lord,  
let us pray to the Lord.
- Deacon/Reader:** For the whole world:  
that all people, who have one Maker and Father,  
may acknowledge one another as brothers and sisters,  
without discrimination of race or nation,  
and with sincere hearts seek the Kingdom of God,  
which is peace and joy in the Holy Spirit,  
let us pray to the Lord.
- Bishop:** O God, who gave the Holy Spirit to your Apostles  
and willed that through them and their successors  
the same Spirit be handed on to the rest of the faithful,  
listen favorably to our prayer,  
and grant that your divine grace,  
which was at work when the Gospel was first proclaimed,  
may now spread through the hearts of those who believe in you.  
Through Christ our Lord.

# Planning Guide For the Celebration of Confirmation

When having Bishop Deshotel or Bishop Jarrell come for Confirmation, please email, fax, or mail this page of the planning guide to the Office of Worship and Liturgy at least **two weeks** prior to the date of Confirmation.

**Diocese of Lafayette**  
**Office of Worship and Liturgy**  
**1408 Carmel Avenue**  
**Lafayette, LA. 70501-5298**  
**Fax: (337) 261-5651**  
**Email: [swickenheiser@diolaf.org](mailto:swickenheiser@diolaf.org)**

**When a dean or vicar is the celebrant, send this form directly to that dean or vicar.**

Church Parish/City: \_\_\_\_\_ Pastor: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Parishes celebrating: \_\_\_\_\_

Date/Time of Confirmation: \_\_\_\_\_

Number to be confirmed: \_\_\_\_\_ Parking for the Bishop/Vicar: \_\_\_\_\_

# Confirmation Liturgy

# Introductory Rites

\_\_\_\_\_ Sprinkling Rite   **or**   \_\_\_\_\_ Penitential Rite  
    \_\_\_\_\_ Tropes  
    \_\_\_\_\_ Confiteor + Kyrie (\_\_\_\_\_ recited   \_\_\_\_\_ sung)

Glory To God: \_\_\_\_\_ Sung \_\_\_\_\_ Recited \_\_\_\_\_ Omitted \_\_\_\_\_

## Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: \_\_\_\_\_ Responsorial Psalm: \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_ recited \_\_\_ sung)

Second Reading: \_\_\_\_\_ Gospel: \_\_\_\_\_

## Liturgy of the Eucharist

Holy, Holy: \_\_\_\_\_ Sung \_\_\_\_\_ Recited

Memorial Acclamation: \_\_\_\_\_ Sung \_\_\_\_\_ Recited

Great Amen: \_\_\_\_\_ Sung \_\_\_\_\_ Recited

Our Father: \_\_\_\_\_ Sung \_\_\_\_\_ Recited

Lamb of God: \_\_\_\_\_ Sung \_\_\_\_\_ Recited