



DIOCESE OF SIOUX CITY

Tribunal/Office of the Judicial Vicar

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Dear Brothers,

At the Presbyteral Council meeting on October 17, 2025, Bishop Keehner shared that he wishes to grant pastors the faculty to confirm adult Catholics who have already been baptized, on a *per casum* basis.

This represents a change in practice from Bishop Nickless, who preferred to reserve all confirmations of baptized Catholics to himself. Both approaches are permitted by canon law — cf. canons 882–884, which regulate who may validly and licitly confer the sacrament of Confirmation.

It is important to note that this is not a general delegation of faculties. In other words, this is not a blanket faculty for all pastors. Each case must be presented individually, and the faculty must be granted for each specific person. Any Confirmation of a baptized Catholic celebrated without having received the faculty in advance would be invalid.

Bishop Keehner's intent is to allow greater flexibility, particularly in situations where a group celebration might otherwise have an awkward age gap between confirmandi. For example, pastors may request this faculty:

- for adults who are baptized Catholics but are completing preparation alongside catechumens or candidates; or
- for those who need to be confirmed prior to marriage.

While these Confirmations may take place at any suitable time, Pentecost would be a particularly appropriate occasion.

Please remember that your existing faculties remain unchanged regarding:

- those you baptize as adults (catechumens), and
- those previously baptized in another Christian community (candidates) whom you receive into full communion with the Catholic Church.

If you wish to request the faculty to confirm a baptized Catholic adult, please send your request to Fr. Galles at the Catholic Central Offices with the relevant details for Bishop Keehner's review.

Enclosed is a sample letter that you may use to request these faculties.

Thank you for your attention and for your faithful ministry.

Fraternally in Christ,

Very Rev. J. David Esquiliano, J.C.L.

Judicial Vicar