



March 2011

Dear Friends in the Lord,

The season of Lent begins this year on Ash Wednesday, March 9, 2011 and ends just prior to the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, April 21, 2011, when the Easter Triduum begins. Lent is the principal penitential season in the Church year. All the Christian faithful are urged to develop and maintain a voluntary program of self-denial (in addition to the Lenten regulations which follow), serious prayer, and the performing of deeds of charity and mercy, including the giving of alms.

LENTEN REGULATIONS – Please share with your parishioners the following Lenten regulations:

1. **ABSTINENCE** – Everyone **14** years of age and over is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent.
2. **FAST** – Everyone **18** years of age and under **59** is required to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

On these two days of fast and abstinence, only one full meatless meal is permitted. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength may be taken according to each person's needs, but together these two should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids (including milk and fruit juices) are allowed.

3. **To disregard completely the law of fast and abstinence is seriously sinful.**

Concerning Confirmation in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois - December 14, 2010

During the Clergy Convocation of September 2010, Bishop Thomas John Paprocki shared his directives concerning the conferral of the Sacrament of Confirmation. Since the bishop is the ordinary minister of Confirmation in the Latin Church, it is not his ordinary practice to delegate priests to administer the sacrament to catechized Catholics.

In sections ONE and TWO below, norms and practice are unchanged. Section THREE lists some changes in diocesan practice.

ONE. CONCERNING UNBAPTIZED ADULTS WHO ARE CATECHUMENS

This includes all who are no longer infants but are of catechetical age and older – see Canon 852 § 1.

The policy and practice in the diocese remains unchanged. It follows the norms of the universal law in Canons 883 § 2 and 885 § 2; the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults; and the National Statutes for the Catechumenate (USA), nos. 18-19. Namely:

- The law itself gives to a priest with diocesan faculties the faculty to confer Confirmation on one he baptizes who is no longer an infant.
- This take place within the Celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation, usually during the Easter Vigil. All three sacraments are celebrated within the one Mass. With the bishop's permission, it may take place on another day.

TWO - CONCERNING CHRISTIANS BAPTIZED IN A SEPARATED ECCLESIAL COMMUNITY

This includes all who are no longer infants but are of catechetical age and older – see Canon 852 § 1.

This policy and practice in the diocese remains unchanged. It follows the norms of the universal law cited above. Namely:

- The law itself gives to a priest with diocesan faculties the faculty to confer Confirmation on one he receives into the full communion of the Catholic Church who is no longer an infant.
- This takes place (a) ordinarily within Mass at a Sunday Eucharist, (b) preferably not during the Easter Vigil, (c) but may take place during the Easter Vigil for pastoral reasons (See Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, nos. 473-486 and 487 and the National Statutes for the Catechumenate (USA), nos. 32-34).

THREE. CONCERNING BAPTIZED CATHOLICS

This includes all who were baptized as children not yet of catechetical age who are either (a) baptized only, that is, “uncatechized” or (b) are baptized and have made first Communion and share in Holy Communion, that is, “catechized” – see Canons 883 § 1 and 884 § 1; the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, nos. 400-410; and the National Statutes for the Catechumenate (USA), nos.25-29.

PRIESTS' CONFIRMATIONS OF UNCATECHIZED CATHOLICS

Any persons who were baptized Catholic but never catechized (i.e., who received neither catechetical formation nor the sacraments of Confirmation or the Holy Eucharist) and who now wish to complete their Christian initiation, may be confirmed by the Bishop at the Cathedral at the Easter Vigil or in their parish by a priest at the Easter Vigil (or a Sunday of the Easter Season) only if specific delegation is given to the priest by the diocesan bishop. For each candidate, you must contact Bishop Paprocki in writing well in advance of the Easter Vigil, provide a copy of a recently issued baptismal certificate, and explain the reason for this request. Bishop Paprocki will consider each request on an individual basis. For convenience, you may use Form B: REQUEST - either for the BISHOP TO CONFIRM A BAPTIZED UNCATECHIZED CATHOLIC or for a PRIEST TO RECEIVE THE FACULTY TO CONFIRM A BAPTIZED UNCATECHIZED CATHOLIC who was neither catechized, confirmed, nor brought to Eucharist in the Catholic Church according to the norms of Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, nos. 400-410.

This form is in the Election and Call 2011 material from the Office for Worship and the Catechumenate to be mailed in early January 2011 to each parish catechumenate director. It was also included in the contents section of the February 2011 monthly mailing and posted on the diocesan web site.

Form B was mailed to catechumenate directors in early January 2011 by the Office for Worship and the Catechumenate. It is posted in the February 2011 Monthly Mailing at this link: http://mm.dio.org/feb_11/item13f.pdf. It is also posted on the diocesan web

site at this link:

http://www.dio.org/uploads/files/Worship/Catechumenate/Election_and_Call/Form_B_Request_for_Faculty_to_Confirm_a_Baptized_Catholic.doc.

CONFIRMATIONS OF CATECHIZED CATHOLICS – Note: Other Catholics who are catechized but not confirmed (i.e., who have received catechetical formation and the sacraments of Penance and Holy Eucharist) are to be confirmed by Bishop Paprocki at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield on Pentecost Sunday, June 12, 2011, at 10:00 AM. Catechesis for such confirmandi is to be done at the local parish. Registration for this Confirmation of Catechized Adults should be done using a special form that will be developed by the Office for Catechesis. That form was posted in the February 2011 monthly mailing; guidance for catechetical formation will be posted in the March 2011 monthly mailing.

The Form for Confirmation of Catechized Catholics on Pentecost 2011 from the Office for Catechesis is posted in the February 2011 Monthly Mailing at this link:
http://mm.dio.org/feb_11/item04e.pdf.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE FOR BAPTIZED NON-CATHOLIC ADULTS SEEKING THE FULL COMMUNION OF THE CHURCH – Any previously baptized non-Catholic adult to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church should appropriately celebrate the sacrament of Penance before the Easter Triduum. Note: No delegation to confirm is needed. A priest who receives a Christian in the full communion of the Catholic Church has the faculty to confirm from the universal law and must use it for the benefit of the one received. Registration for this Confirmation of Catechized Adults should be done using a special form that will be developed by the Office for Catechesis. That form was posted in the February 2011 monthly mailing; guidance for catechetical formation is posted in the March 2011 monthly mailing.

BAPTISMS OF INFANTS – Infants are properly baptized on Easter Sunday or during the Easter Season.

PASTORAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE FROM THE OFFICE FOR WORSHIP AND THE CATECHUMENATE – Please recall that additional copies of the following resources (found in your Pastoral Leadership Manual, Volume 2) are available from our Office for Worship and the Catechumenate:

LENT AND EASTER TRIDUUM: LITURGICAL NOTES

RESPONSES TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON THE CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS AND CHILDREN OF CATECHETICAL AGE FOR THE PROVINCE OF CHICAGO

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS FOR THE DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD IN ILLINOIS: PARTICULAR LAW FOR THE INITIATION AND THE RECEPTION OF ADULTS AND CHILDREN OF CATECHETICAL AGE

May this holy season be a time of spiritual renewal for each of us!

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

Monsignor Carl A. Kemme
Vicar General