



Diocese of Springfield in Illinois

Catholic Pastoral Center • 1615 West Washington Street • Springfield, Illinois 62702-4757
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Office of the Vicar General/Moderator of the Curia

February 2020

Dear Friends in the Lord,

The season of Lent begins this year on Ash Wednesday, February 26, 2020 and ends just prior to the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, April 9, 2020, when the Paschal 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.**

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

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

Reverend Monsignor David J. Hoefler
Vicar General



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Dear Friends in the Lord,

Below is a description of the directives concerning the conferral of the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois.

Since the Bishop is the ordinary minister of Confirmation in the Latin Church, it is not his general practice to delegate priests to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to catechized Catholics.

1) 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 follows the norms of the universal law contained 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 and obligation to confer Confirmation on one he baptizes who is no longer an infant, that is, over the age of reason.
- This takes place within the Celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation, usually during the Easter Vigil. All three Sacraments are celebrated within the one Mass. Only with the diocesan Bishop's permission may it take place on another day. The administration of these sacraments may not be separated.

2) 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.

The policy and practice in the diocese 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, a faculty he must use.
- 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).

3) 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 during 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 annual Election and Call material from the Office for Divine Worship and the Catechumenate mailed to each parish catechumenate director. It is also available on the diocesan web site on the worship pages at this link: <http://www.dio.org/worship/election-and-call.html>.

CONFIRMATIONS OF CATECHIZED CATHOLICS

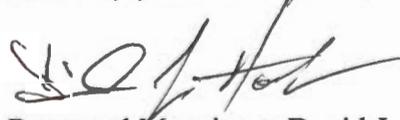
Note: Other Catholics who are catechized but not confirmed (i.e., who have received catechetical formation and the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Eucharist) are to be confirmed by Bishop Paprocki at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield usually on Pentecost Sunday, at 2:00 p.m. or at another time and place when the Bishop celebrates Confirmation. Catechesis for such confirmandi is to be done at the local parish. Registration for this Confirmation of Catechized Adults is done using a special form developed by the Office for Catechesis. Contact the Office for Catechesis for more information.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE FOR BAPTIZED NON-CATHOLIC ADULTS SEEKING THE FULL COMMUNION OF THE CATHOLIC 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 Paschal Triduum. Note: No delegation to confirm is needed. A priest who receives a Christian into 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.

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

Sincerely yours in the Lord,



Reverend Monsignor David J. Hoefler
Vicar General