

## **Coordination of Sacrament Programs**

*Catechesis is an essentially ecclesial act.  
The true subject of catechesis is the Church  
which, continuing the mission of Jesus the Master,  
and therefore animated by the Holy Spirit,  
is sent to be the teacher of the faith.*

*The Church imitates the Mother of the Lord  
in treasuring the Gospel in her heart.  
She proclaims it, celebrates it, lives it,  
and she transmits it in catechesis  
to all those who have decided to follow Jesus.*

*In transmitting faith and new life,  
the Church acts as a mother who begets children  
conceived by the power of the Spirit and born of God.*

*Precisely because she is mother,  
she is also the educator of our faith;  
she is at the same time mother and teacher.  
Through catechesis she feeds her children with her own faith  
and she incorporates them as members into the ecclesial family.  
(GDC 78 & 79)*

**Table of Contents**  
**Coordination of Sacrament Programs**

Context for Sacramental Preparation: Religious Education K through 8	Sac-3
Archdiocesan Mandate for Parish Religious Education Programs	Sac-3
Immediate Catechesis for First Penance, First Eucharist and Confirmation	Sac-4
Administrative Aspects of Sacramental Programs	Sac-6
Legal Concerns Regarding a Child's Reception of a Sacrament	Sac-7
Preparation for First Penance	Sac-8
Summary of Knowledge Required for Reconciliation Preparation	Sac-8
Administrative Aspects of Preparation for First Penance	Sac-9
Preparation for the First Reception of the Holy Eucharist	Sac-10
Summary of Knowledge Required for First Communion Preparation	Sac-10
Administrative Aspects of Preparation for First Communion	Sac-11
Preparation for Confirmation	Sac-12
Requirements for a Child Candidate for Confirmation	Sac-12
The Role of the Parents of the Child to be confirmed	Sac-13
Requirements for the Sponsor of the Child to be Confirmed	Sac-14
Immediate Preparation for Confirmation	Sac-15
Administrative Aspects of Preparation for Confirmation	Sac-16
Day of Prayer Sample Letters	Sac-17
Christian Initiation of Children Who Have Reached Catechetical Age	Sac-19
Clarification of Liturgical Categories	Sac-20
Excerpts from Code of Canon Law Regarding Sacraments	Sac-22

## **Context for Sacramental Preparation: Religious Education Program, K through 8**

### **Archdiocesan Mandate for Parish Religious Education Programs**

The full Religious Education Program, Kindergarten through eighth grade, is the context for the sacramental preparation programs. Preparation for the reception of the sacraments begins in pre-school and continues annually through the eighth grade level. (*GDC 65 – 68*). In order to insure this, the following must be done:

- Recognize that the entire Religious Education Program is the context and primary catechesis for sacramental preparation.
- Select for the entire Religious Education Program a basal textbook series that presents a good catechesis of the sacraments and is included in the listing of textbooks found to be conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church (USCCB)*
- Insure that at each grade level the sacraments are taught effectively and in accordance with the Archdiocesan *Guidelines for Catechesis*.
- Require that, as a minimum of formal catechetical instruction before receiving a sacrament, the child has completed one full year and is currently enrolled in the second year of the regular Religious Education Program.
- If a child is transferring from another Religious Education Program and requests reception of a sacrament in the same year as the transfer, request a transcript as proof of completion of the required two-year participation for reception of a sacrament.

Parish programs that offer only immediate Sacramental Preparation do not fulfill the Archdiocesan mandate which states:

The parish Religious Education Program is to be offered for grade levels 1 through 8 consecutively and are to consist of a minimum of 30 sessions, ninety minutes long, held between September and June, plus a minimum of five hours of family catechesis offered between September and August. The immediate preparation for Sacraments is in addition to the regular 30 sessions of the Religious Education Program.

**Immediate Catechesis for Sacramental Programs:  
First Penance, First Eucharist and Confirmation (GDC 85)**

- Insure that the immediate preparation for, and the first reception of, the Sacraments of Penance, Holy Eucharist and, where possible, Confirmation, take place in the home parish.
- Organize a program of immediate preparation which takes place outside the regular sessions of the Parish Religious Education Program & the Catholic School.
- The immediate preparation program for each sacrament enriches the catechesis given in the regular Religious Education sessions by considering the ways the sacrament nurtures the life of discipleship to Jesus, deepens the relationship with His Church, and enables the daily living of the Gospel. This can be done through such means as:
  - o involvement of parent and family as well as child,
  - o communal prayer experiences,
  - o day of prayer,
  - o focus on various symbols of the sacrament such as bread or oil,
  - o focus on various actions in the sacrament such as forgiveness or anointing,
  - o discussions of the sacrament's implications for Christian living,
  - o experiences of community service.
- Select for the immediate preparation sessions a book or materials which are additional to the regular weekly Religious Education Program. These materials never supplant the program's basal text.
- Collaborate closely with the Principal where there is a Catholic school, developing a unified parish-based preparation program for each sacrament.

- Involve in the catechetical planning, as appropriate, the Catechists who are preparing the children/youth for the sacrament.
- Organize at least two meetings per sacrament for parents of children preparing to receive the sacrament and insure that each meeting contains:
  - o an affirmation that the parents have the primary responsibility for the formation of their children to receive the sacraments,
  - o the theological content of the sacrament with its pastoral implications,
  - o an explanation of the content and materials presented to the children in the program,
  - o suggestions for how the parents will continue this preparation in the home.
- Meet with the Pastor, the Catholic School Principal, the music director, and other appropriate people to plan the parish liturgical celebration of the sacrament.
- The liturgical celebration is always done in accordance with current liturgical principles and the rites of the Church. First Eucharist and Confirmation should not be celebrated during the Lenten season.

## **Administrative Aspects of Sacramental Programs**

Keep the parish as a whole aware of, and involved in, the sacramental preparation through pulpit and bulletin announcements, requests for prayers, and other appropriate means.

Hold necessary rehearsals for the reception of the sacraments at a time apart from the immediate preparation sessions.

Provide each family in late August with a calendar of dates for parent meetings, immediate preparation sessions, days of prayer, interviews, rehearsals and ceremonies. Provide to parents regular reminders of these meetings and events according to established protocols (e.g. e-mail, bulletin announcement, phone calls).

Include in the parent handbook written explanations and directives for participation in the sacramental preparation programs.

Recognize that someone who has not received Baptism cannot be validly admitted to the other sacraments. The Pastor or the Religious Education Director must see the person's baptismal certificate before any other sacrament is given.

Require that each child's baptismal certificate be presented at the time of initial registration into the program. The Baptism information is recorded on the permanent record card and a photocopy of the baptismal certificate is filed so that the address of the Parish will be readily available at the time of the child's Confirmation. Return the original certificate promptly to the parent.

Insure that the appropriate record keeping is done immediately after the child's reception of each sacrament.

## Legal Concerns Regarding a Child's Reception of a Sacrament

When the parents disagree on the question of whether a child should receive First Penance, First Eucharist or Confirmation, the Pastor must become involved in the discussions. He is the ultimate parish authority. However, the final decision belongs to the parent(s).

If the parents can come to an agreement between themselves, the Pastor should write down the agreement, have both parents sign it, and the Director/Coordinator keeps it in the child's file.

***In a mixed marriage***, the faith in which the child is to be raised is agreed upon at the time of marriage.

The following guidelines apply in situations of **divorce** when one parent wants the child to receive a sacrament and the other parent does not.

- ***If the divorce is not yet final*** and the couple cannot come to an agreement, the question has to be handled by the family court.
- ***If the couple has joint custody*** and they are at odds regarding the issue, the Director may call upon the parents to respond to the question in a mature manner. They may be reminded that the reception of a sacrament is for the sake of the child and should be a happy occasion for the child. The couple may be urged not to make the child a pawn in their relational problems.
- ***If the divorce is final***, the question should have been handled by the court that granted the divorce and should be specified in the divorce settlement. In the unusual case that it was not dealt with in the divorce settlement, the couple may have to go back to court and have the settlement modified, unless of course they can come to an agreement between themselves.

Sometimes in the divorce agreement, the custodial parent is not the parent with the decision-making authority for the child's religious education.

## Preparation for First Penance

### ***Summary of Knowledge Required for Reconciliation Preparation which is presented in the regular Religious Education Program:***

- Canon Law requires that children be given suitable catechesis for the Sacrament of Penance (*Canon 777*). However, it does not specify the content of this catechesis. By tradition, the candidate for first reception of the sacrament must:
  - have reached the age of reason, i.e. be able to distinguish right from wrong,
  - have a basic understanding of the concept of sin and the difference between mortal and venial sin,
  - recognize that the Sacrament offers God's forgiveness through Jesus Christ.
  - Be aware of the Church's directive to confess grave sins at least once a year (*Canon 989*)
- According to the *National Directory for Catechesis* (#36, 2) the child should be taught:
  - that God's love for us is unconditional,
  - that we need to turn to Christ and the Church for sacramental forgiveness and reconciliation,
  - that good & evil are present in the world and every person has the capacity for both,
  - that forgiveness is needed, not only from parents and others close to them, but also from God,
  - the meaning of the symbols, gestures, prayers and scriptures for the Sacrament,
  - the way to go to confession and to celebrate the Rite of Reconciliation,
  - that sacramental confession is a means offered by the Church to obtain pardon for sin; it is necessary if one has committed serious sin.
- In addition, the child should be taught:
  - the conditions for approaching the sacrament worthily: an attitude of sincere contrition, a firm purpose of amendment, and the willingness to do penance,

- that frequent reception of the sacrament continues Baptism's grace of conversion and forgiveness; it enables the individual to form his/ her conscience and grow in grace,
- the importance of confessing venial sin regularly (*Canon 988*) which helps to form one's conscience, fight against evil tendencies, let oneself be healed by Christ, and progress in the life of the Spirit (*CCC 1498*),

### ***Administrative Aspects of Preparation for First Penance***

Affirm that the candidate for First Penance is baptized and has reached the age of reason (*Canon 842*).

Plan that, as a minimum of formal religious education, the child has completed one full year and is currently enrolled in the second year of the regular Religious Education Program.

Insure that the catechesis for, and the first reception of, the Sacrament of Penance precedes and is separate from the catechesis for, and first reception of, the Sacrament of the Eucharist (*Canon 914*).

Hold the immediate preparation for First Penance, including the two parent meetings, in the first semester, with the Sacrament taking place no later than the end of January.

Insure that, immediately following the reception of the Sacrament, the months, year, and place of the catechesis given are recorded on the child's permanent record card. The actual date of the reception of the Sacrament is not recorded. Nothing is entered into the Parish Registry.

# Preparation for the First Reception of the Holy Eucharist

## ***Summary of Knowledge Required for First Communion Preparation***

This knowledge is presented throughout the regular Religious Education Program.

The candidate must have sufficient knowledge to understand the mystery of Christ according to his/her capacity so as to receive the Body of the Lord with faith and devotion (*Canon 913 # 1*)

The *National Directory for Catechesis* (#36, 3a) states that the child preparing for First Communion should be taught the following:

- The love of God the Father for each one, our life as disciples of Jesus Christ, and the gift to us of the Holy Spirit,
- the Eucharist is the commemoration of Jesus' last meal with His disciples,
- in the Eucharist we participate in the saving mystery of our faith: Christ's sacrifice for the salvation of us all,
- how to participate reverently, actively and consciously in the Mass,
- the difference between the Holy Eucharist, which is the Real Presence of Jesus Christ under the appearance of bread and wine and ordinary bread and wine,
- the Eucharist (the Body of Christ) nourishes the Christian community and from First Communion on, the child is a member of Christ's Body and can share fully in the Mass and reception of the Eucharist.

The child is also taught:

- the forms of reception of Holy Communion: in the hand, on the tongue, under both species,
- the conditions for receiving Holy Communion worthily: in the state of grace and at least once a year during the Easter season
- the requirements of the Eucharistic fast: no food or drink, except water or medicine, for one hour before receiving Holy Communion.

### ***Administrative Aspects of Preparation for First Communion***

Affirm that the candidate for First Communion is baptized and has reached the age of reason (*Canon 842*).

Plan that, as a minimum of formal religious education, the child has completed one full year and is currently enrolled in the second year of the regular Religious Education Program.

Insure that the catechesis for, and the first reception of, the Sacrament of the Eucharist follows and is separate from the catechesis for, and first reception of, the Sacrament of Penance (*Canon 914*).

Hold the immediate preparation for the first reception of the Eucharist, including the two parent meetings, in the second semester.

Insure that, immediately following the child's reception of the Sacrament, the person's name and the date of the first reception of Holy Eucharist is recorded in the Parish Registry and on the child's permanent record card.

## Preparation for Confirmation

Confirmation is the right of every baptized person. As a Sacrament of Initiation, Confirmation is intimately related to Baptism and the Eucharist. It renews and strengthens the Christian's baptismal commitment to bear witness to Christ before the world and to work eagerly for the building up of the "Body of Christ" in this world.

### ***Requirements for a Child Candidate for Confirmation (Canon 889 # 2; 890)***

The Candidate:

- is baptized,
- is in the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> grade  
*(According to the N.Y. Archdiocesan norm, the child must be in the 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grade of school, but also according to N.Y. Archdiocesan norm, the child must have completed the Archdiocesan Curriculum Guidelines for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades),*
- has been suitably instructed,
- gives sufficient evidence of readiness,
- gives indication of a proper disposition,
- participates actively in the liturgical and sacramental life of the Church,
- completes the parish preparation for the reception of the sacrament,
- demonstrates an adequate grasp of the content of the Catholic faith according to the age level of the candidate,
- demonstrates an understanding that the commitment inherent in choosing to receive the Sacrament involves a way of life based on the values and morality of the Catholic Church,
- understands that faith-development is an ongoing process and is furthered by participation in the life of the parish through comprehensive youth ministry and ongoing adult faith formation.

It must always be remembered that it is the grace of the Sacrament which enables the person to mature as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

### ***The Role of the Parents of the Child to be Confirmed***

The Church calls upon the parents to:

- Serve as models and teachers for their son or daughter by growing in their own personal relationship with God and living as committed Catholics, actively participating in the Sacraments and the life of the parish,
- Share their own faith with their son or daughter, both in word and in action, and thus form and develop a spirit of faith in the child with the help of the Religious Education Program and the Parish,
- Present their child for Confirmation instruction at the proper time (*Canon 890*),
- Attend parent programs conducted to deepen their awareness of the meaning of Confirmation for Christian living, and to assist them as they help their son or daughter to come to freely request the Sacrament,
- Participate with their son or daughter in the special liturgies and events of the preparation program,
- Assist and encourage their son or daughter to understand and assimilate what is being presented during the preparation period,
- Encourage their newly-confirmed son or daughter to continue to be actively involved in the Church, especially in their own parish.

## ***Requirements for the Sponsor of the Child to be Confirmed***

*(GDC 9; Canons 874, 892, 893, 894)*

There is one sponsor for the person being confirmed. The sponsor represents the faith community, guides the confirmed person in acting as a true witness to Christ, and oversees the confirmand's faithful fulfillment of the obligations connected with this Sacrament.

The sponsor:

is, when possible and beneficial, the baptismal godparent because the responsibilities undertaken by the sponsor at Confirmation are a continuation and development of the godparent's promises made at the candidate's Baptism,

If the sponsor cannot, or should not, be the baptismal godparent, the choice of sponsor is made according to the following requirements. The sponsor:

- must be designated by the one being confirmed, by the parents, or in their absence, by the Pastor,
- must have completed his/her 14<sup>th</sup> year of life,  
*(Canon Law suggests age 16 but defers to the Bishop of the Diocese. New York allows 14 years of age.)*
- need not be of the same gender as the candidate,
- must not be the father or mother of the person to be confirmed,
- should be sufficiently mature in his/her faith commitment and be actively expressing it in daily living,
- must be fully initiated into the Catholic Church, having received Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist and be a participating member of his/her parish,
- participates as requested in preparation program and is present at Confirmation.

The role of the sponsor is to:

- help the candidate grow in a faith-relationship with Jesus by sharing faith with the candidate and by modeling the life of the mature Catholic,
- assist and encourage the candidate in the study and practice of the Catholic faith.

### ***Immediate Preparation for Confirmation***

Develop an immediate preparation program outside the regular Religious Education Program. The immediate preparation program may include:

- parent involvement: take great care to instruct the families of those preparing to receive Confirmation on the true nature of the Sacrament,
- letter of request to Bishop or Pastor,
- interview of each candidate for Confirmation by the Pastor or Pastor-delegate,
- a day or evening of prayer (see in this section *Administrative Aspects of Preparation for Confirmation: Organizing the Day/Evening of Prayer*),
- the requirement for service: if this is included in the immediate preparation, it should be for the purpose of teaching the candidates that service is an indispensable and lifelong obligation for the Christian life into which the candidate is being “confirmed”.

Inform Catechists, candidates, and families that the Baptismal name may be used for the Confirmation name if it is the name of a saint.

- In Baptism, the Christian receives his name in the Church. This should be the name of a saint who provides a model of charity and who is then looked upon as an intercessor in heaven. The baptismal name can also express a Christian mystery or Christian virtue (*Catechism of Catholic Church 2156*).
- The name received at Baptism is a name for eternity (*CCC 2159*). No new saint name need be taken at Confirmation. However, if a name other than a saint name was given at Baptism, a Confirmation name may be chosen.

### ***Administrative Aspects of Preparation for Confirmation***

- Ensure that, immediately prior to the year in which Confirmation is to be received, the child/youth has at least completed one year in the regular Religious Education Program and is in the second consecutive year.
- During the celebration of the Sacrament, stoles are not to be worn by the Confirmation candidates. The stole is the symbol of Ordination to the Priesthood not of the Sacrament of Confirmation. (*Archdiocesan Liturgical Office*)
- Insure that, immediately following the reception of Confirmation, the person's name and the date of Confirmation are recorded:
  - o on the child's permanent record card,
  - o in the parish Confirmation registry,
  - o in the parish Baptismal registry (*Canon 535*).
- Send a notice of Confirmation to the church of Baptism for each person baptized in another parish.
- Consider the following in organizing a day/evening of prayer:
  - o Overnight events are not recommended for junior-high-aged youth.
  - o Several adult chaperones in addition to the Catechists and Director should be present throughout the entire experience.
  - o If the day of prayer is to be scheduled for a school day, the Religious Education Director negotiates the date with the public school principal early in the year to avoid conflict with important school activities. (In some school districts, participating in the day of prayer could prevent a student from earning perfect attendance.)
  - o At the time of the event, the school principal should be given the names of participating students.
  - o Prior to the event, the students should notify the appropriate teachers of their pending absence.

**Day of Prayer in Preparation for Confirmation**  
**Sample Letter for Student's Public School Teachers**

*This letter is given by the student to each of his/her public school teachers at least a week before the scheduled day of prayer.*

To: *(teacher name)* \_\_\_\_\_ Subject Area \_\_\_\_\_

From: *(student name)* \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

As part of the Confirmation program at *(name of parish)* \_\_\_\_\_

I am required to attend a day of prayer on *(date)* \_\_\_\_\_.  
As a result, I will not be present for any classes on that day.

May I please have the day's assignments and direction as to how I might make up the material presented in class? I will do my best to complete the classwork and the homework.

If a test has been scheduled for that day, I formally request that I be allowed to be tested at another time when it is possible for me and convenient for you.

Thank you for your understanding.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*student's signature*

As the parent of *(student's name)* \_\_\_\_\_.

I thank you for your cooperation in this matter. I have instructed my child to present this notice to you one week before the absence. I promise that I will see to it that my child completes the tasks which you have assigned.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*parent's signature*

**Day of Prayer in Preparation for Confirmation  
Sample Letter for Public School Authority**

*This letter is given to the principal, homeroom teacher, or person responsible for the attendance register at least a full week before the scheduled day of prayer.*

My child, \_\_\_\_\_ is currently enrolled in the  
*(student's name)*

Confirmation Preparation Program at \_\_\_\_\_ Parish.

A required part of this program is the day of prayer scheduled for *(date)* \_\_\_\_\_.  
Therefore, my child will be unable to attend school that day.

I request that any tests or exams scheduled for this date be rescheduled at a time possible for my child and convenient for the teacher or, at least, that my child be allowed to take the test at another time. I will do my best to have my child make up the class work and complete the assignments by the teacher for this day.

Thank you for your consideration and cooperation.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(signature of parent)*

## **Christian Initiation of Children Who Have Reached Catechetical Age**

### ***Meeting the Needs of Children of Catechetical Age (7 to 13) within the Parish Religious Education Program***

***The child of catechetical age who is not baptized Catholic:*** is sent to the parish Director of the *Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults*. Within the RCIA process the child will be prepared for the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist).

In order to provide ongoing religious education for this child, the parish can choose one of the following two alternatives:

- Once the child has completed the RCIA process and has received the Sacraments of Initiation, he/she is enrolled in the parish Religious Education Program.
- At the same time that the child is preparing to receive the Sacraments of Initiation within the RCIA process, he/she may also be enrolled in the regular parish Religious Education Program. However, the child does not take part in the immediate sacramental preparation of the Religious Education program because he/she is already following the RCIA process for sacramental preparation.

No matter which alternative is followed, the child is prepared to receive First Penance at an appropriate time by following the immediate preparation for First Penance offered in the regular Religious Education Program.

***The child who is baptized Catholic but has never been taught or formed in the faith:*** is placed in the regular Parish Religious Education Program. The child receives the Sacrament of the Eucharist when he/she has demonstrated sufficient understanding of Sacrament. For Confirmation, the child follows the immediate preparation program for the Sacrament offered by the Religious Education Program, and is confirmed with his/her peers.

***The child who is baptized in another Christian tradition:*** will be in one of several possible situations with regard to the reception of the Sacraments of Initiation. Therefore, the Director of Religious Education should call the Director of the RCIA in the Catechetical Office for guidance in offering the approach to sacramental preparation required for this child.

## Clarification of Liturgical Categories

### ***The Baptism of Infants (Birth to 6 years old)***

According to the liturgical categories of the Church, “infants” are children from birth to 6 years old (*Rite of Baptism for Children*, 1).

The *Rite of Christian Initiation for Children* is used for infants. This rite is also called the “*Rite of Baptism for Children*.” It should not be used for children once they have reached catechetical age.

For infants, their Baptism is based entirely upon the commitment of their parents. It is the parents who must make the faith choices, such as the choice to be baptized and the choice to be baptized a Catholic.

### ***The Baptism of Children of Catechetical Age ( 7 to 13 years old)***

According to the liturgical categories of the Church, “catechetical age” is usually between 7 and 13 years old. Pastoral judgment may be exercised in individual circumstances. If a child is mature enough to participate in a preparation program for the first reception of the Eucharist, the child is considered to be “of catechetical age.”

These children cannot yet be treated as adults because, at this stage of their lives, they are dependent on their parents or guardians and are still strongly influenced by their companions and their social surroundings.

However, they are able to hear and understand the call of Christ, and to respond with faith at their own age level. They are able to seek Christian initiation either at the direction of their parents or on their own initiative with parental permission.

To be baptized, the child of catechetical age must give evidence of personal conversion but parental permission and support are also required.

In the preparation for receiving the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist), children of catechetical age follow the general pattern of the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*. After a sufficient preparation, they receive the Sacraments of Initiation (*RCIA National Statutes*,18).

### ***The Baptism of Adults (Age 14 - 17)***

At the age of 14, according to church law, the candidate for Baptism is considered an adult and follows the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*.

In Canon Law, the youth aged 14 to 17 years does not need parental permission to decide to be baptized or to become a Catholic. However, according to U.S. law, parental permission is required.

Also, because of the normal immaturity of youth at this age, it is very important that any youth who comes forward to receive the sacraments has the support of parent or guardian.

Complete directives for the implementation of the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults can be found in the *Guidelines for the RCIA in the Archdiocese of New York (February 2014)*

## **Excerpts from Code of Canon Law (1983) Regarding the Sacraments**

### ***For Sacraments of Initiation***

Canon 842:

1. One who has not received Baptism cannot be validly admitted to other sacraments.
2. The sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and the Most Holy Eucharist are so interrelated that they are required for full Christian Initiation.

Canon 843:

1. The sacred ministers cannot refuse the sacraments to those who ask for them at appropriate times, are properly disposed and are not prohibited by law from receiving them.
2. Pastors of souls and the rest of the Christian faithful according to their ecclesial function, have the duty to see that those who seek the sacraments are prepared to receive them by the necessary evangelization and catechetical formation, taking into account the norms published by the competent authority.

Canon 777:

In accord with the norms established by the diocesan bishop, the Pastor is to make particular provision:

1. that suitable catechesis is given for the celebration of the sacraments;
2. that children are properly prepared for the first reception of the Sacraments of Penance and Most Holy Eucharist and the Sacrament of Confirmation by means of a catechetical formation given over an appropriate period of time;
3. that children are more fruitfully and deeply instructed through catechetical formation after the reception of First Communion;
4. that catechetical formation also be given to those handicapped in body or mind insofar as their condition permits;
5. that the faith of young people and adults be fortified, enlightened and developed through various means and endeavors.

### ***For the First Reception of the Sacrament of the Eucharist***

Canon 913 #1:

For the administration of the most Holy Eucharist to children, it is required that they have sufficient knowledge and careful preparation so as to understand the mystery of Christ according to their capacity and can receive the Body of the Lord with faith and devotion.

Canon 914:

It is the responsibility, in the first place, of parents and those who take the place of parents, as well as of the Pastor, to see that children who have reached the use of reason are correctly prepared and are nourished by the divine food as early as possible, preceded by sacramental confession. It is also for the Pastor to be vigilant lest any children come to the holy Banquet who have not reached the use of reason or whom he judges are not sufficiently disposed.

### ***For the Catechesis for First Reception of the Sacrament of Penance***

Canon 914 states that sacramental confession precedes the first reception of the Eucharist.

### ***For the Parish Registries***

Canon 895:

The names of the confirmed with mention of the minister, the parents and the sponsors, the place and the date of the conferral of confirmation, are to be noted in the Confirmation Registry - a book kept in the parish archive.

Canon 535 # 2:

The Pastor must notify the Pastor of the parish where the person was baptized about the conferral of Confirmation so that notation may be made in the Baptism registry.

## ***For Confirmation Sponsors***

Canon 892:

The sponsor's responsibility is to see that the confirmed person acts as a true witness to Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations connected with the sacrament.

Canon 893, #2

It is desirable that the one who undertook the role of sponsor for the person at Baptism also be the person's sponsor for Confirmation.

Canon 874:

For both Baptism and Confirmation, to be admitted to the role of sponsor a person must:

1. be designated by the one to be baptized, by the parents or the one who takes their place, or, in their absence, by the Pastor or minister and is to have the qualifications and intention of performing this role;
2. have completed the sixteenth year, unless a different age has been established by the diocesan bishop or it seems to the Pastor or minister that an exception is to be made for a just cause;
3. be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the Sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist and leads a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken (893 # 1);
4. not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared;

Canon 874:

A baptized person who belongs to a non-Catholic church may not be a sponsor, but may be admitted to the liturgical celebration as a witness to Baptism together with a Catholic sponsor.

Canon 892:

As far as possible the sponsor should be present at the Confirmation liturgy.