



OFFICE OF THE VICAR GENERAL
ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK

Lent 2024

Via Electronic Mail

Dear Father:

We wish you the favor and peace of God our Father and of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I received your email requesting approval for a pastor to confirm a previously baptized child or adult who has already received First Holy Communion and who has fully participated in the RCIA process or its equivalent. For the spiritual good of God's people in the archdiocese, His Eminence is gladly granting you the indult, *ad casum*, to administer the sacrament of confirmation. This may take place from the Easter Vigil through Pentecost Sunday (although the nature of the Easter vigil discourages confirmations of already baptized Catholics).

Since questions of validity may arise when the sacrament of confirmation is administered by a priest (c. 882), a notation should be made in the registry of the parish that the faculty to confirm under the above-listed conditions is expressly delegated, *i.e.*, "*delegatus*."

When you plan for the future, be mindful that previously baptized Catholic children and adults who have received their First Holy Communion do not belong in the RCIA process, but rather in a separate archdiocesan or parish program. Their confirmation is conferred by a bishop and not the pastor. The cardinal will not be permitting this indult next year. Refer to the adult confirmation program on the archdiocesan webpage <https://archny.org/ministries-and-offices/adult-faith-formation/adult-confirmation/>.

Appreciative as always and happy to be working with you.

Fraternally in the Lord,


Reverend Monsignor Joseph P. LaMorte, VG
Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia

JPL:djlf

Enclosures



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WHEN MAY A PRIEST CONFIRM?

The 1983 code of canon law states (c.882): *“The ordinary minister of confirmation is a bishop; a presbyter provided with this faculty in virtue of universal law, or the special grant of a competent authority also confers this sacrament validly.”*

It is often asked, “Under what conditions may a priest confirm?”

- Unbaptized children (age 7+) and adults enrolled in the catechumenal process who will be fully initiated at the Easter vigil;
- Baptized Protestant teens and adults who seek to become Catholic, are enrolled in the catechumenal process and who make a profession of faith, may receive confirmation and first communion from a priest anytime of the year;
- Baptized, uncatechized Catholic teens and adults who seek preparation for first communion and confirmation and are enrolled in the catechumenal process may, in individual cases and with delegation from the vicar general, be confirmed and receive first communion from a priest within the Eucharistic liturgy during the Easter season (c. 137 §3);
- However, he may not confirm previously baptized Catholics who have also received their first holy communion. They do not belong in the RCIA process, but rather in a separate archdiocesan or parish program. Their confirmation is conferred by a bishop. Cf. <https://archny.org/ministries-and-offices/adult-faith-formation/adult-confirmation/>.

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WHO BELONGS IN THE CATECHUMENATE (RCIA)?

- *UNBAPTIZED CHILDREN AGES SEVEN THROUGH 12 AND UNBAPTIZED TEENAGERS AGES 13 THROUGH 17.* These children are to be enrolled in the catechumenate process and are to be fully initiated at the Easter Vigil receiving all three sacraments of Christian initiation from a priest.
- *UNBAPTIZED ADULTS AGES 18+.* These adults are to be enrolled in the catechumenate process and are to be fully initiated at the Easter Vigil receiving all three sacraments of Christian initiation from a priest.
- *BAPTIZED CATHOLIC TEENAGERS AND ADULTS WHO SEEK PREPARATION FOR THEIR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION.* These Catholic teenagers and adults may participate in the catechumenate process and may receive their confirmation and first holy communion during the Easter season from a priest.
- *BAPTIZED PROTESTANT TEENAGERS AND ADULTS WHO SEEK TO BECOME CATHOLIC.* These Protestant teenagers and adults may participate in the catechumenate process and are to make their profession of faith and receive their confirmation and first holy communion anytime of the year from a priest.

WHO DOES NOT BELONG IN THE CATECHUMENATE (RCIA)?

- *BAPTIZED CATHOLIC CHILDREN AGES SEVEN THROUGH 12 WHO SEEK PREPARATION FOR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION.* They are to prepare through a sacramental program offered by a Catholic school or parish religious education program.
- *BAPTIZED CATHOLIC TEENAGERS AND ADULTS WHO ALREADY RECEIVED THEIR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND ARE NOW SEEKING THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION.* They are to prepare through a sacramental program offered by a parish or the archdiocese. They are to be confirmed by a bishop.