



THE CHANCERY
OFFICE OF THE VICAR GENERAL
ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK

February 13, 2019

Dear Father:

I know you are aware that the *Code of Canon Law* gives priests the faculty to confirm when they baptize an adult or child of catechetical age (seven or older); and when they receive a validly baptized adult or child of catechetical age into full communion with the Church (c. 833). However, by law, a priest does not possess the faculty to confirm baptized Catholics who were never catechized; or practicing Catholics who have not yet been confirmed.

Nevertheless, for the spiritual good of God's people in the Archdiocese of New York, with this letter His Eminence the Cardinal grants the faculty to confirm such baptized Catholics to pastors, administrators and any priest specifically subdelegated by a pastor or administrator in individual cases (c. 137 §3). This faculty may be exercised only when the following conditions are met:

1. Only baptized Catholics who have fully participated in the process and catechesis of the 1988 *Rite of Christian Initiation* or its equivalent may be confirmed;
2. Confirmation of baptized Catholics may only be celebrated within a Eucharistic liturgy which takes place from the Easter Vigil through and including Pentecost Sunday.

If any of these conditions are not met, then the faculty to confirm must be specifically requested from the vicar general.

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 confirmation registry of the parish that the faculty to confirm under the above listed condition is expressly delegated, ie, "*delegatus*."

With kindest regards, I am,

Sincerely in Christ,

The Very Reverend Joseph P. LaMorte
Vicar General and Chancellor

JPL:lmn