



URGENT MEMORANDUM

To: Priests, Pastoral Leaders, and Parishes

From: Most Reverend Daniel E. Thomas

Re: Faculty to Administer the Sacrament of Confirmation

Date: 3 April 2020

The Advocate, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you (Jn. 14: 26).

Having now entered into a critical phase concerning the further spreading of Caronavirus/COVID-19, a global pandemic, and heeding Governor Mike DeWine's extended stay-at-home order, and after consultation with the College of Consultors and prayerful consideration, it is my judgment that it is best for the spiritual welfare of our candidates for Confirmation and the pastoral good of our parish communities, by way of exception, to grant to Pastors/Administrators/Presbyteral Moderators & Chaplains the faculty to confirm their parishioners.

In accord with Canon 884 §1-2 of the Code of Canon Law¹ I hereby grant the faculty to the local Pastor/Administrator/Presbyteral Moderator & Chaplain to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation on those candidates from their parish(es) who are sufficiently prepared. This includes candidates from eighth grade through adulthood. The Adult Confirmation Mass, scheduled for Pentecost Sunday (May 31, 2020) at Rosary Cathedral is hereby cancelled.

This faculty is granted from a period beginning with the termination of the extended stay-at-home order, when it is deemed safe for people to gather as determined by Governor DeWine and public health officials. The faculty expires on **Tuesday, June 30, 2020**.

¹ §1. The diocesan bishop is to administer confirmation personally or is to take care that another bishop administers it. If necessity requires it, he can grant the faculty to one or more specific presbyters, who are to administer this sacrament.

§2. For a grave cause the bishop and even the presbyter endowed with the faculty of confirming in virtue of the law or the special grant of the competent authority can in single cases also associate presbyters with themselves to administer the sacrament.

The faculty applies individually to each Pastor/Administrator/Presbyteral Moderator & Chaplain for the celebration of Confirmation in each parish for which he is responsible, and does not give the authority to validly administer the sacrament after that date. If, for whatever reason the Rite of Confirmation cannot be celebrated on or before June 30, kindly contact my office immediately with a request to grant the faculty for a future date.

Attached please find a list of the priests who will be delegated to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. These priests will receive in the mail a formal letter granting the faculty to confirm.

Should any candidate not receive the sacrament at his/her parish, that candidate may join another parish with the expressed permission of both the candidate's Pastor/Administrator/Presbyteral Moderator & Chaplain and the Pastor/Administrator/Presbyteral Moderator & Chaplain where the celebration will take place.

The Pastor/Administrator/Presbyteral Moderator & Chaplain should prudently consider limiting the number of people in attendance to the candidates, sponsors, and immediate family members as the faithful may still feel anxious and uneasy about gathering in larger groups.

Also included with this memo are attachments detailing the *Order of Confirmation within Mass*, in both English and Spanish, according to the officially approved text of 2016. Permission was granted by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and the International Commission on English in the Liturgy, to freely copy the necessary sections of the *Order of Confirmation* for distribution to parishes this year.

The attachment includes a link to the diocesan Confirmation Guide (updated in 2017) that provides both helpful and detailed explanations regarding the Mass.

At the earliest opportunity, following the celebration of Confirmation, the Pastor/Administrator/Presbyteral Moderator & Chaplain is to see that the complete information required in the sacramental register, is recorded immediately following the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation; as well as notifying the newly confirmed's church of Baptism (Canon 895). The following information is to be entered into the parish register according to Canon 895:

- Name of the confirmed
- Name of the celebrant
- Names of the parents and sponsor
- Place and date of Confirmation

When a parish or several parishes celebrate Confirmation in a church other than the candidate's home parish church, all notations are made in the sacramental register of the parish of the newly confirmed, noting the fact that Confirmation was conferred at another church.

Grateful for your understanding that this extraordinary step is taken out of pastoral prudence and confident that you will provide for the worthy celebration of this Sacrament, I thank you for accepting this sacramental responsibility and ask you to convey to the confirmands and their families my closeness in prayer.