

Form A
2018

Diocese of Dallas
Confirmation Guidelines



Guidelines for Celebration ~ Pastoral Reminders

IMPORTANT ~ If your parish has more than **100** persons to be confirmed, contact the Office of the Bishop to set an additional date for the celebration (example: 120 exceeds the limit by 20), and split the group in half.

Form B must be completed and received by the Worship Office **one month prior** to your Confirmation Mass. Form B can be completed electronically on diocesan website, click [Worship Office](#) and go to Confirmation.

- Make certain that there is sufficient seating in the sanctuary for bishop, pastor, deacon, and other priests who concelebrate. Servers can be seated in another area—front row pew, or chairs on the side of the altar platform.
- Review **Roman Missal (GIRM 2010)** beginning n. 210-251; these instructions should be helpful. If there is a deacon “of the altar,” this bears particular review. GIRM n. 242 and 248 will help you arrange an organized Communion Rite for the concelebrants.
- Make certain that there are enough Ministers of Communion (ordinary and/or extraordinary) to offer the Eucharist in its fuller form, i.e. the Body of Christ and the Precious Blood. (Note that the deacon is the usual minister of the Precious Blood.)
- For bishop and priests celebrating the Mass, red or white vestments are worn. Deacon wears dalmatic and stole.
- If the Ritual Mass is not used, and the Mass of the day takes precedence, then it is appropriate to wear the liturgical color of the day. The *Table of Liturgical Days* is located in Chapter II of the *Universal Norms...* in the Roman Missal or call the Office of Worship for assistance.
- Abbot Peter Verhalen, O. Cist. may confer the Sacrament of Confirmation at your parish. An abbot is the equivalent of a bishop, designated for his religious community. Abbot Peter is graciously assisting the bishop, in the bishop’s role of administering this sacrament, due to the multitude of celebrations. The bishop may also delegate another priest (or bishop) to assist and represent him in conferring this sacrament for our youth.

Helpful Hints for Planning the Liturgy for the Confirmation Mass

- Engage collaboratively in selecting music (music director/catechist/youth minister) and remember the solemnity and joy of the occasion. A sung *Gloria* (rather than recited) is appropriate, except on the Sundays of Advent and Lent. During Lent, recall the emphasis on a sung *Kyrie* (use the *Confiteor*, followed by *Kyrie*) and do not downplay the ritual beauty of the Mass. Keep the Lenten environment in place, and let

the music and ritual support the celebration. Remember that many visitors and guests may be present; the music should be accessible and familiar.

- Make certain that the readings are taken from the Lectionary. Form B provides choices available if you use the Ritual Mass for Confirmation. If you have a question regarding **choice of text**, please call the Office of Worship.
- The Creed is omitted at this Mass.
- The official Ritual for Confirmation includes suggestions for the Prayers of the Faithful, both in Spanish and English. These are helpful.
- Use Confirmandi as gift bearers.
- The worship aid is a means of both hospitality and communication. It directly affects the participation of the assembly at the Confirmation Mass, supporting worship in song and in response. It seems reasonable to make a special effort to produce a worship aid that includes both spoken- and sung-responses for the Mass, especially with the presence of visitors and guests. **Reprinting the text** (see **Ritual Text...below**) of the Rite of Confirmation also supports the prayer and response of the Candidates, in addition to those who have gathered for this Mass.
- Music may accompany the anointing; suggest planning something appropriate but subdued. The assembly should be able to hear some of the words being said during the ritual.
- Invite your best cantor and your most skilled lector(s) to participate. All ministers should take special care for appropriate “dressed-up” attire. Hospitality Ministers are especially important, to welcome and guide visitors and guests, as well as seamless assistance with pathways for processions. This service should be festive and yet reverent.
- Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation with the Candidates prior to receiving Confirmation, to develop their spirituality and renew their acceptance of God’s love and mercy.

Notes for Preparing Rite of Confirmation

IMPORTANT Confirmation Coordinators are expected to emphasize careful selection of the sponsor for Confirmation: the sponsor should be a Catholic who practices his/her faith. The sponsor should be able to FULLY PARTICIPATE in the Confirmation Mass celebration: this includes **receiving Holy Communion** along with the candidate.

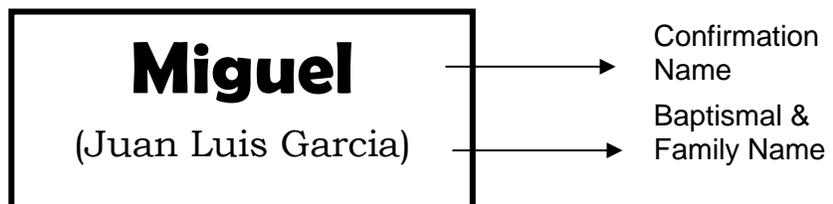
IMPORTANT Stoles of any type/color are inappropriate: the stole is the symbol of the ordained clergy. **There are no exceptions concerning stoles.** Gowns similar to graduation gowns are strongly discouraged; they emphasize a “graduation/moving-on” idea about Confirmation, rather than candidates’ entry into full discipleship. Confirmation is not a graduation from religious education.

- After the Gospel, candidates are presented together as a group by pastor, deacon, or catechist. This is called **Presentation of Candidates**. Use these or similar words: “Bishop, I wish to present the Confirmation Class of (year) from the Catholic community of (your parish name).” Candidates stand for introduction, and are seated following this for the Homily. (Sponsors do not stand for this part.)

- Have Chrism oil ready on the credence table. Simplest way is to pour into a small glass dish, such as a custard cup, and completely saturate 3-5 cotton balls. Deacon may hold the oil for the bishop. At the credence table, prepare small bowl of water with several drops of detergent, plus a towel, so that the bishop may remove the Chrism after the anointing. (This is separate from the pitcher, bowl and towel used during Preparation of Gifts.) **If more Chrism is needed, contact the Office of Worship.**
- Candidates move to the bishop as at Communion, forming 2 lines in front of the bishop. Sponsor is behind the Candidate, with a hand on the **RIGHT SHOULDER** of the candidate **AS THE CANDIDATE ARRIVES IN FRONT OF THE BISHOP.**

Ritual Text for Candidates (<i>print on worship aid</i>)	
Renewal of Baptismal Promises	Candidates (standing) respond I DO to each.
Laying On Of Hands	Candidates (still standing) respond AMEN .
<i>Candidates now seated; released gently (row by row) with sponsor, for Confirmation.</i>	
Anointing with Chrism	Each Candidate moves to the bishop; sponsor right hand on right shoulder of candidate; sponsor presents card to assistant (next to bishop)
Bishop: <i>Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.</i>	Candidate: AMEN.
Bishop: <i>Peace be with you.</i>	Candidate: AND WITH YOUR SPIRIT.
<i>Candidates should respond to the Bishop in a clear, committed voice.</i>	

- Reserve rows on either side of center aisle, and assign candidate/sponsor seating next to each other. (Families may sit in other areas of the church, in open seating behind the Candidates and Sponsors.) Hospitality ministers (or formation coordinator) could assist releasing of either side, so that there is no lag or “bunching up.”
- If there are students who have already received the sacrament, we suggest that you seat them at the end of the Candidates, and pastor can advise the bishop ahead of time about how many students in this group (so that he can anticipate giving them a blessing). They will move forward with no sponsors.
- Sponsor should make certain that student has a NAME TAG ON so that the bishop can read it. A sample card is provided below. (*Please use a label large enough to read...*) The assistant clearly announces the **CONFIRMATION NAME** of the **CANDIDATE**, and this assists the bishop. Note here: the diocesan preference for a Confirmation name is that of a saint. If desired, the candidate may use his/her baptismal name. (Note: Jesús or Niño de Atoche are not acceptable as Confirmation names.)



These guidelines are intended to assist in planning and implementing the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation during Mass. **Please call or email the Office of Worship if you have questions or need more information.**