



## General Guidelines for Confirmation for Pastors and Teachers Those to be Confirmed

The sacrament of Confirmation is conferred usually on students in grade seven. However, *confirmandi* must be at least in grade five. If there are any Ukrainian Rite Catholics in the Confirmation class, please see page 4, *Appendix I: Ukrainian Catholic Students*.

### A. Sponsors for Confirmation

1. According to the Code of Canon Law, neither the father nor the mother of a candidate can be a sponsor for the Sacrament of Confirmation. (canon 893, with reference to canon 874 §1, 5°)
2. It is desirable that the godparent at Baptism, if available, also be the sponsor at Confirmation (Canon 893 §2). This expresses more clearly the link between Baptism and Confirmation and also makes the function and responsibility of the sponsor more effective. Nonetheless, the choosing of a special Confirmation sponsor is not excluded (Cf. Rite of Confirmation, no.5).
3. Sponsors must be at least sixteen (16) years old and Catholic (see c. 874 §3).
4. The sponsor need not be of the same sex as the candidate.

### B. Prayers of the Faithful

The first prayer should include a reference to “Francis, our Pope, and Michael, our Bishop.” A prayer for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life should also be included. Six intercessions should be the maximum.

### C. Celebration during the Mass

It is customary in the Archdiocese of Vancouver for the Sacrament to be administered during the celebration of Mass. The Mass used is one of the ritual Masses for Confirmation (cf. Roman Missal pp 1126-1130), unless the Mass of the day takes precedence, as it does on Sundays of Lent and Easter and on Solemnities (cf. # 441).

- Readings: readings from the Mass of the day may be used or exchanged for a corresponding reading from Lectionary nn.764 – 768. During the Easter season the First Reading must be taken from the New Testament (cf. 764). There should be no Readings from the Old Testament in Easter Season.
- The *Gloria* is said or sung when Confirmation is celebrated on a Sunday, Solemnity or Feast.
- Eucharistic Prayer: note the appropriate inserts for Eucharistic Prayer I, II, and III on p. 1127 of the Roman Missal.



## D. Music

Music should be appropriate to the season and to the occasion of Confirmation. The parts of the Mass should be sung, making sure that the translation of the Roman Missal is used. The Psalm response should also be sung. Before the ceremony, the Director of Music should meet with the Archbishop so that he knows when to expect singing. The texts should be doctrinally sound. Please note that during Lent there is no *Alleluia*. Decorations ought to reflect the liturgical season.

## E. The Ceremony

The *confirmandi* should be seated all together in groups on the left and right of the centre aisle. They do not have to be separated according to gender. The sponsors should be seated in corresponding groups behind them. *Confirmandi* and sponsors should not be intermingled in the seating.

After the homily and questioning of the candidates, the *confirmandi* should stand for the Renewal of Baptismal Promises. Immediately after the Prayer Imposition of Hands, the first line of *confirmandi*, with their sponsors lined up behind them, is to be formed across the front of the sanctuary. When the Archbishop has finished confirming the first set of young people, they should return to their places together with their sponsors. The next group should then come forward in order to be ready when the Archbishop returns to confirm them. If you plan on using a different method of bringing the *confirmandi* to the Archbishop, for example if you prefer to have the Archbishop confer the Sacrament while seated, please contact the Archbishop's Office in advance.

The sponsor should be instructed to place his or her right hand on the candidate's shoulder before the Archbishop comes to him/her and to keep the hand on the shoulder until after he has moved on to the next candidate.

## F. Photographs

Pastors are asked to tell their congregations not to take photographs during the Rite of Confirmation. If the pastor desires, one designated photographer may stand discreetly off to the side and take pictures during the ceremony. The same applies for the taking of videos. If the Archbishop is being thanked or given a spiritual bouquet, this should be done only after the Post-Communion Prayer. Group photographs must be taken before the ceremonies. If at all possible, it is advisable to arrange for group photos outside the church building; for example, in the parish hall. The Archbishop will be pleased to provide opportunities for individual photographs after the ceremonies. The newly confirmed must remain in their robes for photos with the Archbishop.



## G. After the Ceremony

Please complete the enclosed registration form with the names of each *confirmand*, and return to the John Paul II Pastoral Centre **by e-mail at: [reception@rcav.org](mailto:reception@rcav.org)**.

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Feast of the Epiphany**

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## **Appendix I: Ukrainian Catholic Students (Ukrainian Rite Catholics)**

The following memo concerns certain procedures in connection with Ukrainian Catholic Students in anticipation of the Sacrament of Confirmation being conferred in the Latin Rite. It was sent by the Alberta Inter-Rite Committee on September 9, 1976, to all parish priests and principals of Catholic schools within the jurisdiction of the Alberta Bishop's Conference. These same guidelines apply in the Archdiocese of Vancouver.

In the Ukrainian Catholic Church, Confirmation is administered immediately after baptism. Problems arise when Ukrainian Catholic students fail to realize that they have already been confirmed. To obviate difficulties, the following guidelines are to be observed:

1. The certificate of baptism issued by the Ukrainian Catholic parish states explicitly that the person has been not only baptized but also confirmed. Thus baptism certificates of potential candidates for Confirmation in the Latin Rite are to be personally reviewed by the Pastor (and Principal) in the event of the candidate is enrolled in the Confirmation class. Only in rare cases where a baptismal record cannot be located is it permissible to accept an affidavit.
2. If an Ukrainian Catholic child has been baptized and not confirmed. The matter should be referred to the proper pastor of the child. If this is not possible because no Ukrainian Catholic priest resides or serves in that locality or region, the Ukrainian Catholic Chancery should be notified before any steps are taken to enroll an Ukrainian Catholic child in the Latin Rite Confirmation class.