

4. Confirmation

- 4.1. Completing the Rites of Initiation: By the law itself (canon 883 2°) you have the faculty to confirm those whom, by virtue of your office or mandate of the Archbishop, you have baptized or have received into the full communion of the Catholic Church who are seven years of age or older.

Note: Candidates younger than the normal age for confirmation according to archdiocesan policy who have been confirmed are to be encouraged to participate in their parish confirmation program and may present themselves for a blessing from the bishop during the confirmation ceremony.

- 4.2. Special Cases of Initiation: Those empowered by canon 883 2° as explained in the previous paragraph also have the faculty to confirm (a) in the case of the readmission to communion of a baptized Catholic who has been an apostate from the faith and also (b) in the case of a baptized Catholic who has without fault been instructed in a non-Catholic religion or adhered to a non-Catholic religion (*RCIA*, “National Statutes for the Catechumenate,” 28). But this faculty **does not apply** in the case of a baptized Catholic who without his or her fault never put the faith into practice (see the next paragraph).
- 4.3. Uncatechized Adults: At times, those who have been baptized Catholics as infants are not catechized until later as adults and seek to complete their initiation through Confirmation and Eucharist. Some, for example, may enroll in a “modified catechumenate” while others may seek the sacraments when preparing for marriage in the Catholic Church. Your faculty to confirm **does not** extend to these cases (see *RCIA*, “National Statutes,” 28-c). The valid administration of the sacrament requires special delegation as provided below:
 - a. In order to maintain the interrelationship and sequence of confirmation and Eucharist as defined in canon 842 §2, you may petition the Archbishop in accord with canon 884 §1 for the special faculty to confirm a particular person in such circumstances.
 - b. In accord with canon 884 §1, pastors/administrators are hereby delegated to confirm baptized, uncatechized adults at the Easter Vigil provided those candidates have participated in the Adult Initiation Process. In the case of baptized, catechized, practicing Catholics or those who have not participated in the Adult Initiation Process, the faculty to confirm is reserved to the bishop.
- 4.4. Delay of Confirmation until after Marriage: When the preparation of baptized adults for confirmation coincides with preparation for marriage and it is foreseen that the conditions for a fruitful reception of confirmation cannot be satisfied, or if confirmation cannot be conferred without grave inconvenience, you may defer confirmation until after the marriage (canon 1065 §1; *Rite of Confirmation*, 12). If the party wants to be confirmed before the marriage and you are opposed, you must refer the case to the regional bishop.