

**CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION
WITH
BAPTIZED CATHOLIC ADULTS**

Archbishop Daniel Buechlein extends an invitation to baptized Catholic adults to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at a celebration on the **Solemnity of Pentecost, Sunday, May 23, 2010 at 10:30 a.m.**, at Saints Peter & Paul Cathedral. The Archbishop extends his thanks to Fr. Dan Donohoo, pastor of the Cathedral, and to the Cathedral Parish Community for welcoming and supporting this celebration at their regular Sunday morning liturgy.

Here are the practical guidelines for those parishes that choose to accept this invitation:

The attached form must be completed by the pastor or the catechetical director of the candidate(s) and sent to the attention of Christina Tuley, Executive Assistant in the Office of Worship. The purpose of the form is to verify that a candidate is prepared and is acknowledged as such by a competent authority in his/her parish. The form also provides contact information (phone #, e-mail, or postal address) for each candidate and sponsor (in order that the Cathedral may provide additional details to both, if needed). **Forms must be received by May 17, 2010.**

**Christina Tuley
Office of Worship
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Indianapolis, IN 46206**

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Guests of the Candidates: Please determine the number of persons the candidate will have as guests for the Mass on May 23rd and include that information with the letter to Christina Tuley (above) by May 17th. **Please identify these persons as “Guests of (name of candidate)”;** **the number of guests is all that is needed.**

Your cooperation will help the Cathedral Staff to plan for hosting the celebration within its Sunday morning liturgy.

Arrival Time: Candidates for confirmation and their sponsors should plan to be at the Cathedral by 9:30 a.m. on May 23rd for a brief welcome, rehearsal, and opportunity for answers to any questions they may have.

Guests' Arrival: Guests may arrive at any time prior to the 10:30 a.m. celebration. Seating for guests will be within the assembly of Cathedral parishioners.

Sacramental Records: **[The recording of the confirmation of those who are confirmed on May 23rd should be done in the book at each home parish.]** Each parish is responsible for notifying the confirmand's parish of baptism that the individual has been confirmed. The site of the confirmation - SS Peter & Paul Cathedral - should be noted in the confirmation register of the home parish.

GUIDELINES FOR CONFIRMATION OF BAPTIZED CATHOLIC ADULTS

Baptized Catholic adults are invited to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation, on the Solemnity of Pentecost, Sunday, May 23rd during the 10:30 a.m. Mass, at Saints Peter & Paul Cathedral, Indianapolis. Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein, will preside at Mass and confer the Sacrament.

Here are several points to keep in mind:

Adults (age 18 and over) should be baptized Catholics.

They should be suitably instructed, properly disposed and able to renew their baptismal promises (canon 889).

Note: "Properly disposed" means that the candidate be in the state of grace and have a genuine desire to complete their Christian initiation. An irregular marriage situation may prevent the reception of the Sacrament. If such cases cannot be resolved prior to Confirmation, then pastoral ministers are urged to give extra encouragement and prayerful support to those individuals for whom Confirmation may be delayed.

In general, the adults will come from two groups of baptized Catholics.

Some may be active, practicing, catechized members of the parish community who have simply not been confirmed. They may have moved from one parish to another and missed parts of a preparation program or perhaps, as teenagers, they did not feel "ready" for the Sacrament. Some people simply "fell through the cracks". Now, these individuals are active in parish life, often in leadership roles and possibly even in liturgical ministry roles. They will need little more than an invitation, some planning details, and the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.

Others may be practicing Catholics who will need some catechesis. Full catechesis includes an understanding of Church teachings (Scripture and Tradition), worship and sacramental life, personal and social morality (justice and service) and participation in a community of faith. To help these persons to "brush up" on one or more of these areas, please see the process notes.

Note: Un-catechized Catholic adults should normally be prepared for Confirmation and Eucharist through the process described in Part II of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

A Suggested Process for Inviting, Welcoming and Preparing Adults for Confirmation

This process could be delegated to the parish adult catechetical team, an ad hoc committee of the Faith Formation Commission or another parish group.

Make the invitation widespread and inclusive.

Use a variety of means - parish bulletin, announcement at Mass, part of a homily (when appropriate) at parent, young adult and other meetings.

Let it be known that all adults are invited to celebrate the Sacrament.

Prepare a special invitation for young adults and college students.

Look for candidates among those adults preparing for the Sacrament of Matrimony.

Invite non-confirmed parents of youth candidates to celebrate with their children.

Be creative with posters, web pages, bulletin inserts, referral cards, etc.

Hold an open informational meeting at one or more times (day/evening/Sunday morning) at which you will explain the plans for this opportunity.

Be sure that those who cannot attend a meeting know how to reach you later.

Distribute an information form to each person to keep in touch and begin to gather information for sacramental records. Allow plenty of time for the candidates to obtain proof of their Baptism.

Talk about the role and requirements for a Confirmation sponsor.

Provide a general review of the Sacrament of Confirmation (See 1996 Guidelines and enclosed background notes).

Provide time for questions and answers.

Once you have identified the adult candidates, you can plan your next steps around their needs.

Some persons may need a parish companion to answer questions and offer encouragement.

Some persons may want to talk to a priest.

Many persons will not need formal catechesis.

Some will need formal or more structured preparation. Here are some ideas.

Catechesis should:

Be focused on Creed and Discipleship.

Foster conversion in an atmosphere of prayer and faith sharing.

Include sacramental Penance and Reconciliation (for all candidates).

Draw candidates into service and deeper involvement in parish life.

Assist candidates to live their faith more fully in family life, workplace and society.

You can use the *Adult Faith Formation Curriculum and Resource Guide* to plan a short program of formation for adults. When practical, pair up with another parish or hold a deanery wide program of preparation.

A RECOMMENDED RESOURCE

The Archdiocesan Initiation Committee recommends that catechetical leaders consider using *Called and Gifted for the Third Millennium*, the reflections of the U.S. Catholic Bishops on the Thirtieth Anniversary of the *Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity* and the Fifteenth Anniversary of *Called and Gifted*. This resource contains excellent content, Scriptural references, and discussion questions on the four calls of lay Catholics:

- The Call to Holiness
- The Call to Community
- The Call to Mission and Ministry
- The Call to Christian Maturity

To view *Called and Gifted for the Third Millennium* on the USCCB web site, go to:
<http://www.usccb.org/laity/calleden.htm>.

Please do not download and copy the resource. Order the booklets from USCCB. See order information at the end of the document on the web or go to www.usccb.org and click on Bookstore.
