



DECREE

PROMULGATING THE REVISED NORMS FOR CONFIRMATION IN THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

The following general norms are to be implemented in accord with the more detailed policies and procedures issued by the Faith Formation Office of the Diocese of Erie.

In accord with the norm of canon 889 §2 of the *Code of Canon Law*, those to be confirmed must be suitably instructed, properly disposed, and able to renew their baptismal promises.

Suitable instruction is to include the following components:

- Three (3) full years of catechesis, normally understood to include grades 7, 8 and 9.
- A basic understanding of the theological and spiritual realities related to Confirmation as identified in the guidelines issued by the Faith Formation Department.
- Participation in Christian service integrated into the Confirmation preparation program.
- Participation in an approved pre-Confirmation retreat.
- Completion of an interview with one's proper pastor or his delegate.

A candidate's proper disposition is to include the following components:

- The candidate's free and personal decision to be confirmed.
- The candidate's written request to the Bishop to receive Confirmation.
- Active involvement in the Confirmation program in at least 80% of required sessions.

The authority competent to assess a candidate's readiness to receive the sacrament is the candidate's proper pastor or the pastor of the parish where the candidate has enrolled in the preparation program. In the latter case, the proper pastor is to be consulted before a determination is made (cf. can. 890).

The normative age for already-baptized Catholics to receive Confirmation in the Diocese of Erie is in the spring of ninth grade. Parishes are to implement this transition gradually according to the attached schedule, using either a five (5) or six (6) year plan.

A special adaptation for small parishes, only with prior approval, is intended for those parishes unable to conduct a full grade 6-12 program by themselves and unable to join with another parish to do so. Prior approval will be communicated by the Faith Formation Director who must first consult with the Diocesan Bishop and the Dean.



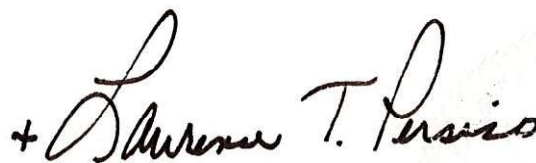
Parishes already implementing these revised norms since 2021 on an *ad experimentum* basis are permitted to employ a four (4) year plan; no new parishes will be added to their number.

Sponsors for Confirmation are to meet the qualification given in canons 874, 892, and 893, namely:

- be designated by the one to be confirmed
- be at least 16 years old
- be a regularly practicing Catholic in good standing
- be fully initiated in the Catholic faith by having already received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist
- be neither the father nor mother of the one to be confirmed

These norms take effect on Pentecost Sunday, June 5, 2022, all things to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at the Chancery
of the Diocese of Erie
on this 6th day of April, 2022



+ Lawrence T. Persico

The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL
Bishop of Erie



Christopher J. Singer

The Reverend Christopher J. Singer, JCL
Chancellor

Attachment: Implementation schedule