

DIOCESE OF WORCESTER

MULTI-PARISH CONFIRMATION Information for Participating Parishes

The following information is intended to assist parishes who are participating in the diocesan multi-parish confirmation celebrations at the Cathedral of St. Paul. (or St. Cecilia Parish, Leominster)

General Information:

- Please photocopy the enclosed registration form and complete a form for each candidate. For the sake of accuracy, we ask that the forms be completed by someone at the parish, not by the candidates or their families. Return completed forms to the Office of Religious Education at least three weeks prior to the date of the celebration.
- There is no rehearsal at the Cathedral. Please plan to have a rehearsal within your parish for the purpose of catechizing the sponsors and candidates regarding their roles and responses for the renewal of baptismal promises and the anointing.
- The rite of Confirmation will be within Mass. Reception of Eucharist will be under both species. Please catechize your candidates in this regard if necessary.
- There will be reserved seating for candidates and sponsors in the front section of the church. There is general seating for all other family members and guests.
- Candidates and their sponsors should arrive by 2:30 p.m. and go to the lower cathedral where candidates can put on their robes. They should then go upstairs, where ushers will direct them to their seats.
- Candidates will not process in; they (with their sponsors) will be seated before Mass begins. At the conclusion of the liturgy, they should remain in their seats until after the liturgical procession. They are then invited to have pictures taken with the Bishop. No picture taking will be allowed during Mass.
- Parking is available in the Cathedral parking lot, or in any of the surrounding public parking garages. Please do not park in any of the private lots near the Cathedral; many people have had their cars towed in the past.
- Directions to the cathedral should be photocopied for families of candidates.
- Restrooms are in the lower church, which is accessible from the church vestibule.
- The Diocesan Office of Religious Education will prepare the Confirmation cards. We will bring them to the cathedral and give them to the adult in charge of each parish to be distributed to the candidates before mass. Candidates will present the card to the bishop when they come forward to be anointed. This will be our record of who is confirmed on that day, so it is essential that each candidate hand in a card. (Please do not bring the cards that may have been sent to you by the gown company; we do not need those.)

- Parishes should prepare their own certificates, if they wish to have them.

Canonical Information:

- A parent can not be the sponsor for his/her son or daughter (Canon #893 and #874).
- Please verify the baptismal records of candidates. Baptisms in the Unitarian church, Federated churches, or community churches are not recognized as valid by the Catholic Church. If in doubt of the validity of a baptism, contact the Tribunal @ (508) 929-4354. Individuals who were baptized in an Eastern Rite Catholic Church were mostly confirmed at the same time. Please contact the Tribunal with any questions.
- For candidates validly baptized in a non-Catholic Church, please provide us with the date and parish where the candidate was received into the full communion of the Catholic Church.
- The confirmation will be officially recorded at the Cathedral of St. Paul. All information on the enclosed registration form is for the purpose of recording the confirmation at the Cathedral and sending the information to the church of baptism, so accuracy is important.

Costs:

- Candidates will wear the white Spiritus robes from Rose Therese Company in Brockton, MA. Each parish will receive a packet with order forms and materials for measurements. Measurements should be sent back to Rose Therese as soon as possible. Parishes will be billed directly from Rose Therese after the ceremony. Robes will be delivered to the parishes a few days before the Confirmation and will be picked up from the parish one or two days afterwards. If you have questions about your gown order, please call the Rose Therese Company directly at (508) 586-5812.
- After the celebration, parishes will be billed \$15 per candidate to cover administrative expenses associated with the celebration.

Tel. # (508) 929-4308; Fax # (508) 753-7180; e-mail: bramian@worcesterdiocese.org