



ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE STATE OF HAWAII

DIOCESE OF HONOLULU

WITNESS TO JESUS

Celebrating the Sacraments of Initiation in Their Original Order **Instruction for the Transition**

1. This *Instruction for the Transition* is supplemental to the *Norms for the Preparation for and Celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation and First Penance*.
2. **Deciding the year of transition:** The pastor¹ and his catechetical and youth ministry leaders will decide the year that their parish will make the transition from celebrating Confirmation in the 10th grade to celebrating Confirmation with first Holy Communion. They will do this by using the “Comprehensive Youth Ministry Parish Self-Assessment Tool” distributed by the Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry. The parish is to inform the Office of Worship of their decision.
3. For those parishes moving to original order in the **first group**:
 - In 2016-17:
 - Age-appropriate catechesis as is currently being offered by the parish or Catholic school for all grades will continue.
 - Preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation will continue for those in 10th grade to be received from the bishop in 2017.
 - Intensive planning will take place for the following year, which includes securing needed catechetical materials, planning the parish calendar, coordinating with parents (including home-school parents), etc.
 - The implementation of comprehensive youth ministry will be completed.
 - In 2017-18:
 - For those in 2nd grade (and others who have not received first Holy Communion), preparation will take place for first Penance, Confirmation, and first Holy Communion.
 - For those who have already received first Holy Communion but are not confirmed (grades 3-12), preparation will take place for Confirmation. This preparation is to supplement the usual catechesis for their grade. As pastorally appropriate and convenient, this preparation for Confirmation may be done in age clusters (grades 3-5, 6-8, 9-12).
 - The sacrament of Penance is to be celebrated at least once before Confirmation (and first Holy Communion).
 - All those in grades 2-12 will be confirmed by the pastor or parochial vicar on the solemnity of Pentecost, May 20, 2018. The pastor may choose to have this done at one or more Masses that weekend. This Mass (or these Masses) will also include the reception of first Holy Communion for those in 2nd grade (and others as needed).

¹ What is said in this instruction about pastors also applies to ethnic chaplains and the chaplain of the Mystical Rose Oratory as appropriate.

- Beginning in the year 2019, Confirmation and first Holy Communion will be celebrated by the bishop and scheduled with the Office of the Bishop. Depending on the numbers of children and parish locations, these celebrations may be arranged in regional clusters.
4. For those parishes in the **second group**:
- In 2016-2017:
 - The focus will be on the implementation of comprehensive youth ministry.
 - Everything else will continue as previously.
 - In 2017-18:
 - Age-appropriate catechesis as is currently being offered by the parish or Catholic school for all grades will continue.
 - Preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation will take place for those in **9th and 10th grades** to be received from the bishop in 2018.
 - Intensive planning will take place for the following year, which includes securing needed catechetical materials, planning the parish calendar, coordinating with parents (including home-school parents), etc.
 - The implementation of comprehensive youth ministry will be completed.
 - In 2018-19:
 - For those in 2nd grade (and others who have not received first Holy Communion), preparation will take place for first Penance, Confirmation, and first Holy Communion.
 - For those who have already received first Holy Communion but are not confirmed (grades 3-12), preparation will take place for Confirmation. This preparation is to supplement the usual catechesis for their grade. As pastorally appropriate and convenient, their preparation for Confirmation may be done in age clusters (grades 3-5, 6-8, 9-12).
 - The sacrament of Penance is to be celebrated at least once before Confirmation (and first Holy Communion).
 - All those in grades 2-12 will be confirmed by the pastor or parochial vicar on the solemnity of Pentecost, June 9, 2019. The pastor may choose to have this done at one or more Masses that weekend. This Mass (or these Masses) will also include the reception of first Holy Communion for those in 2nd grade (and others as needed).
 - Beginning in the year 2020, Confirmation and first Holy Communion will be celebrated by the bishop and scheduled with the Office of Worship. Depending on the numbers of children and parish locations, these celebrations may be arranged in regional clusters.
5. For those parishes in the **third group**:
- In 2016-2017:
 - The focus will be on the implementation of comprehensive youth ministry.
 - Everything else will continue as previously.
 - In 2017-18:
 - Focus will continue on the implementation of comprehensive youth ministry.
 - Preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation will take place for those in **9th and 10th grades** to be received from the bishop in 2018.
 - Everything else will continue as previously.

- In 2018-19:
 - Age-appropriate catechesis as is currently being offered by the parish or Catholic school for all grades will continue.
 - Intensive planning will take place for the following year, which includes securing needed catechetical materials, planning the parish calendar, coordinating with parents (including home-school parents), etc.
 - The implementation of comprehensive youth ministry will be completed.
 - In 2019-20:
 - For those in 2nd grade (and others who have not received first Holy Communion), preparation will take place for first Penance, Confirmation, and first Holy Communion.
 - For those who have already received first Holy Communion but are not confirmed (grades 3-12), preparation will take place for Confirmation. This preparation is to supplement the usual catechesis for their grade. As pastorally appropriate and convenient, their preparation for Confirmation may be done in age clusters (grades 3-5, 6-8, 9-12).
 - The sacrament of Penance is to be celebrated at least once before Confirmation (and first Holy Communion).
 - All those in grades 2-12 will be confirmed by the pastor or parochial vicar on the solemnity of Pentecost, May 31, 2020. The pastor may choose to have this done at one or more Masses that weekend. This Mass (or these Masses) will also include the reception of first Holy Communion for those in 2nd grade (and others as needed).
 - Beginning in the year 2021, Confirmation and first Holy Communion will be celebrated by the bishop and scheduled with the Office of Worship. Depending on the numbers of children and parish locations, these celebrations may be arranged in regional clusters.
6. **Role of the bishop:** References to the bishop are to be understood as applying to the vicar general or other priest mandated by him. The following will be the plan for the bishop:
- 2017: The bishop will confirm those in 10th grade and above (no change)
 - 2018: The bishop will confirm those in 9th grade and above in parish groups 2 and 3
 - 2019: The bishop will confirm 2nd graders for those parishes in group 1
 - 2020: The bishop will confirm 2nd graders for those parishes in groups 1 and 2
 - 2021: The bishop will confirm 2nd graders for all parishes
7. The bishop may select parishes where he will confirm personally on the “catch-up” Pentecost Sundays in 2018, 2019, and 2020. Special delegation to confirm will be granted in writing to the pastors and parochial vicars who will also be confirming on those Pentecost Sundays.
8. After the parish celebrates its “catch-up” Confirmation on one of the Pentecost Sundays, in future years, pastors, parochial vicars, and chaplains will be delegated in their priestly faculties to give Confirmation on any Sunday of the Easter season, from the Easter vigil until Pentecost, for those baptized Catholics who are 13 years old or older. This provides an alternative for teenagers or adults to be confirmed by the priest at a parish Mass or by the bishop at the parish celebration of Confirmation and first Holy Communion.

9. **Catholic Schools:** Catholic schools on Oahu plus St. Joseph in Hilo and St. Anthony in Wailuku have students from many different parishes. Consequently, they will likely include students from parishes who are making the transition to original order at three different times. (St. Theresa, Kekaha, has students from also from Holy Cross and St. Raphael. St. Catherine has students also from Immaculate Conception. Sacred Hearts only has students from Maria Lanakila.) Catholic schools are encouraged to cooperate with the special catechetical needs of their students for sacramental preparation for the three years of the transition (2017-2020 school years).

10. In 2017-18:

- All Catholic schools will include preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation in their **2nd grade curriculum** in addition to preparation for first Penance and first Holy Communion.
- The schools will also begin providing the reminder described in #51 of the norms. (See attached sample of notice.)

11. Since the transition to confirming with first Holy Communion takes place over the course of three years, not all 2nd graders will be confirmed at the end of the 2017-18 year.

Consequently:

- In 2018-19, Catholic schools need to include a **review of the preparation** for the sacrament of Confirmation in their 3rd grade curriculum.
- In 2019-20, Catholic schools need to include a review of the preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation in their 3rd and 4th grade curriculums.
- The reminders described in #51 of the norms that took place at the beginning of 2nd grade are to be repeated at the beginning of 3rd and 4th grade for those children not yet confirmed.
- The review of preparation for Confirmation is not required if it is certain that there are no students in the school who are still not confirmed in 3rd or 4th grade.
- Beginning in 2020-21, Catholic schools will need to include preparation for first Penance, Confirmation, and first Holy Communion in their 2nd grade curriculum only.

12. In 2017-18, 2018-19, and 2019-20:

- Catholic schools are encouraged provide the **catechesis for Confirmation** to their students during the three “catch-up” years when grades 2-12 all get confirmed at some parishes. At the beginning of the school year, these schools are to notify the parents as described in #51 of the norms if catechetical preparation is being provided for their students for Confirmation.
- If the schools do not provide the catechetical preparation for Confirmation for some or all grades for some of all of the three years, those Catholic school children will be required to attend a year of catechesis at the parish to prepare for Confirmation.

13. Beginning in 2017-18:

- Each Catholic school will be free, if it desires, to provide **special catechetical preparation** for Baptism, reception into full communion, first Penance, Confirmation and/or first Holy Communion in accord with nos. 73, 93, and 98 of the norms to children of grade 2 and up whose parents request it. The school is to provide the notifications to the parents described in #51 of the norms.
- If schools do not provide the catechetical preparation, those children will be required to attend the usual catechetical sessions at the parish along with other children preparing for the sacraments.

Sample Reminder Notice from Catholic School Principal to Parents of Child Receiving the Sacraments

(Not needed if the child is enrolled in a parish school of his or her own parish)

School Letterhead

Date (beginning of school year)

Dear Parents of Child Preparing for the Sacraments:

With great joy I am happy to inform you that during this current school year, your son/daughter _____, enrolled in 2nd grade, will be provided catechetical preparation to receive first Penance, Confirmation, and first Holy Communion.

[The prior paragraph is to be adapted to other circumstances if the child is in a different grade, is only being prepared for Confirmation, or is also being prepared for Baptism or reception into the full communion of the Catholic Church.]

This letter also serves as a reminder to you that it is your responsibility to inform your home parish that your child will be catechized for the sacraments in a Catholic school. It is also important that you attend Sunday Mass each week with your child, register with the parish if you have not already done so, and begin the process of family integration with your home parish in order to receive the sacraments there.

While this Catholic school will provide the catechetical preparation for the sacraments for your child, your family participation in retreats, parent sessions, rehearsals, and liturgical celebrations are to take place in your parish.

Please provide a copy of this letter to your parish so that they have a record of where your child is being catechized for the sacraments.

Sincerely in Christ,

Name
Principal/Head of School

No. 9 of the Norms for the Preparation for and Celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation and First Penance states that a pastor can give permission for his parishioner to receive the sacraments elsewhere. This sample letter can be used in situations where parents wish that their child receive the sacraments of first Penance, Confirmation, and first Holy Communion in the parish of the school that he or she attends rather than in his or her home parish.

**Sample Letter of Permission
to Receive First Penance,
Confirmation and First Holy Communion
at the Parish Where Student is Enrolled
in a Parochial School**

Parish Letterhead

Date

Dear Pastor of Parish with School:

At the request of the parents, I hereby give permission for _____, a child in grade _____, who is a member of my parish and is enrolled in your parish school, to receive the first Penance, Confirmation, and first Holy Communion in your parish.

With this permission, it is understood that the family's participation in retreats, parent sessions, rehearsals, and liturgical celebrations will all take place at your parish.

I understand that the sacraments will then be recorded in your parish sacramental registers and that you will issue the appropriate certificates.

With kind regards,

Rev. _____
Pastor