

**Exerpt from Guidelines for Adult Confirmation Sacramental Preparation  
Diocese of Honolulu  
December 12, 2016**

**Discerning the Faith Formation Needs of Adult Confirmation Candidates**

Just as no two catechumens or candidates for full communion are the same, so too Catholic adults who wish to be confirmed vary in their level of formation in the faith. Some examples:

1. The man who has raised his children Catholic and attended Mass regularly for decades. He's been involved with parish life varying from being an usher to serving on his parish stewardship committee. Already demonstrating his formation in the faith, he would probably benefit most from immediate preparation of the sacrament, including an exploration of the rite of Confirmation itself and an opportunity to celebrate the sacrament of Penance. (Diocesan Norms, #71)
2. The man who was raised Catholic, stopped practicing his faith while in college and started to attend a number of nondenominational churches in his late 20s. He eventually decided he misses the Eucharist and has just started coming to Mass once again. He was pretty active in his nondenominational church, but is new to your parish. He loves the Bible but is not very clear about differences in faith between his last church and your Catholic parish. In addition to immediate sacramental preparation, this man might benefit from being invited to participate in a short-term, small group faith sharing opportunity to help him develop his relationship with Christ's body, the Church, and his particular parish.
3. The woman who stopped practicing her Catholic faith as a teenager when her parents divorced and she moved to a new city. Fifteen years later, she is married and recently baptized her firstborn child. Thinking about her desire to raise her own daughter in the faith, she asks to be confirmed. She's just started coming back to Mass. Speaking with her, it appears that her desire is sincere, but that she really doesn't remember much about the faith. She might benefit from being invited to participate for a year alongside those in the parish catechumenate process (aka, RCIA). If she does participate, she should never be treated like the unbaptized catechumens or the baptized candidates, in terms of the various rites and dismissals and such. If she is not interested in a full, one-year process, she should not be made to do so and something briefer should be offered to her with the hope that it will spark interest in her in growing in her faith more in the future.
4. The woman who was baptized but has received neither First Holy Communion nor Confirmation. It would be appropriate to ask this woman to participate for a year alongside those in the parish catechumenate process (aka, RCIA), as described in paragraph #70 of the Diocesan Norms.

NOTE: Catholic adults who have received First Holy Communion and who already demonstrate some evidence of a relationship with Jesus and his Church, expressed by involvement in the parish, should not be asked to participate in a year-long RCIA process. (In other words, knowledge of doctrines is not the primary emphasis – attending Mass and receiving the Eucharist regularly are.)

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