



Office of Worship
Diocese of Honolulu

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Clergy and Parishes
FROM: Deacon Modesto Cordero
Director, Office of Worship
DATE: March 22, 2017
RE: **2017 Confirmation Guidelines**

PRELIMINARY NOTES:

1. This year all pastors, parochial vicars, and priest chaplains have the faculty to confirm on any Sunday of the Easter season, from the Easter vigil until Pentecost, those **18 years** of age or older who were baptized Catholic as children.
2. To confirm baptized Catholics on another occasion requires for validity written delegation from the diocesan bishop, vicar general, or judicial vicar/director of canonical affairs.
3. Changes to Confirmation practices related to the implementation of the original order of the Sacraments of Initiation will begin in 2018.

2017 TEENAGE CONFIRMATIONS – GENERAL GUIDELINES:

1. If the parish (or a neighboring parish) has deacons, their participation is expected and encouraged. All priests in the parish are encouraged to concelebrate.
2. Please make clear to all attending that photographs and videos should be kept to a minimum and in no case should interfere with the reverence due the liturgy.
3. Candidates and sponsors (at least) should be instructed that gum chewing is not appropriate.
4. A stole that goes over the neck and hangs down on both sides in front is the vestment that symbolizes an ordained priest and is not to be used by the newly confirmed. A stole that is worn diagonally over the shoulder is the vestment reserved for an ordained deacon. Since Confirmation is closely linked to Baptism, and since the white garment is the “vestment” of the baptized, Confirmation candidates are encouraged to wear white.
5. The Bishop or his delegate (the celebrant) will use prayers from the *Roman Missal*, not from prepared sheets with the exception of the Universal Prayers. Please prepare and provide one copy to the MC upon his or her arrival.
6. Please inform the MC whether incense will be used. If so, be sure to appoint altar servers able to handle the thurible and incense boat.
7. The parish is responsible for providing the sacred chrism. It should be in a container that makes it visible to the assembly of the faithful, such as a crystal bowl.

INTRODUCTORY RITES:

- a. If the *confirmandi* are to walk in procession, they follow the (thurible and) cross bearer with two candles. If the sacred chrism is carried in procession, it is to be carried **before** the *Book of the Gospels*. The chrism should be put in a prominent place, but not on the altar.
- b. Since Confirmation is a Sacrament of Initiation, use of the Blessing and Sprinkling of Water is appropriate. After the celebrant blesses the water at the baptismal font, an appropriate baptismal song should accompany the actual sprinkling. By exception, the Penitential Act may be celebrated in place of the sprinkling.
- c. The *Gloria*, when prescribed, is to be sung after the Bishop says the prayer that concludes the sprinkling rite (not during the sprinkling).

LITURGY OF THE WORD:

- a. **The proper readings assigned in the Lectionary for the day are to be used on Sundays, during the Octave of Easter, and on other Solemnities.** For other days, the texts for Confirmation found in the *Lectionary*, Volume IV (nos. 764-768) may be used. On these occasions, please send the Office of Worship the Scripture references at least three weeks before the Confirmation.
- b. **If the *confirmandi* are to perform the function of reader, they should be well prepared.** No one should read simply to include them in the liturgy. While having a copy of the readings is a good idea for practice, readings should read from the *Lectionary* during Mass, not from loose papers.
- c. **The Gospel is read by a deacon or, in his absence, by the pastor or another concelebrating priest.**

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

1. Presentation of the Candidates:

- a. The presentation of the candidates takes place before the homily. It includes calling each candidate by name, but it should not be long and drawn out. If there are more than 50 candidates, the names should not be read but printed in the program.
- b. Applause from the assembly should be held until all the names have been called.
- c. The homily will be given by the celebrant.

2. The Renewal of Baptismal Promises:

- a. An altar server should hold the *Order of Confirmation* book for the celebrant.
- b. *Confirmandi* should be rehearsed to respond "**I DO**" loudly and clearly.

3. The Laying on of Hands:

- a. An altar server should hold the *Order of Confirmation* book for the celebrant for the invitation to prayer and the invocation of the Holy Spirit.
- b. Bishop Silva's preference is to impose hands over each of the *confirmandi*. If the numbers make this unworkable (more than 30), he will impose hands over them all at once before he prays the prayer of invocation.
- c. If the laying on of hands is done individually, the *confirmandi* (without sponsors) may come in procession. This ritual may be accompanied by appropriate background music.

4. The Anointing with Chrism:

- a. The *confirmandi* come up one-by-one with sponsors. Care should be taken that they do not block the view of the assembly as they come forward.

- b. Please have a printed nametag/card for each candidate, with the name the celebrant will say highlighted. The sponsor should also state the name of the candidate. (It is the Confirmation NAME of the candidate that will be used at the anointing. It is preferable to simply use the person's baptismal name. If a name is chosen different from one's baptismal name, purely secular names may not be used. It may be the name of a saint, virtue, or holy person from the Bible. If the candidate chooses St. Theresa of the Child Jesus as her saint, for example, the nametag should say "THERESA," not "St. Theresa" or something longer.)
- c. A deacon or, if no deacon is present, a priest is to hold the chrism for the celebrant on his right. Please provide the celebrant with a purificator so that he can wipe off any dripping chrism.
- d. Bishop Silva prefers to do the anointing of adults and teens while standing. The celebrant will say, "*N., be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.*" The newly confirmed answers, "*Amen.*" Then the celebrant will say, "Peace be with you," and the newly confirmed answers, "*And with your spirit.*"
- e. Appropriate background music during the anointing should begin only after the celebrant has anointed the first three candidates, so that the assembly is able to hear the formula of anointing.
- f. Lemon and bread are NOT necessary. The celebrant will clean his hands of residue chrism with the purificator referred to above.

5. The Universal Prayer:

- a. **The Intercessions are to be read by the deacon.**
- b. In his absence, they may be read by one or several of the newly confirmed, a parent, sponsor, or a layperson in parish leadership.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

- a. **Ordained clergy are the ORDINARY ministers of Holy Communion.** If help is needed beyond the clergy present, please use only extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion from the parish who are trained and familiar with their responsibilities. Please be sure that ministers of Holy Communion have been assigned and prepared.
- b. The Prayer after Communion may follow a meditation song, but **always precedes** the announcements and acknowledgements.

CONCLUDING RITES

- a. **Announcements:** If there are to be announcements, please have someone from the parish make them after the Prayer after Communion.
- b. **Blessing and Dismissal:** Ordinarily a Solemn Blessing or Prayer over the People will be used. Please have the altar server hold the *Roman Missal* for the celebrant. Everyone answers "*AMEN*" after each of the invocations of a Solemn Blessing.
- c. **Procession** – The ministers and the celebrant process out first, then the newly confirmed, so that the celebrant can be outside the door to greet and congratulate them. If group photographs are desired, the procession out may be eliminated, and the group may be rehearsed beforehand to line up on the sanctuary steps or in another appropriate place and the celebrant will join them.

Please feel free to contact me at the Office of Worship by calling 808-585-3342 or by email at mcordero@rchwaii.org should you have any questions.