

Archdiocesan Confirmation Policy for Youth

Comprehensive Model of Youth Ministry

Frequently Asked Questions

- **What is the Comprehensive Model?** This term comes to us from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Document- *Renewing the Vision –A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry*. The Comprehensive Model of Youth Ministry is a stepping stone in the faith journey of a young person. During this journey, our youth will grow spiritually, emotionally, and educationally, all while strengthening their relationship with Jesus Christ and renewing their lifelong commitment to their Catholic Community.

As you journey with youth through the Phases of formation: *Learners, Disciples in Training* and *Disciples in Ministry* within the model for Youth Ministry, you, as the minister, will teach and apply, helping to make strong connections between the knowledge of faith and the practice of the faith. The Comprehensive Model for youth ministry helps to develop strong, practicing, young Catholics in your parish.

- **Is Youth Ministry considered Catechesis, Faith Formation, or Religious Education?**
Actually, Youth Ministry incorporates all three: Catechesis, Faith Formation and Religious Education. Any Middle or High School Youth participating, involved and active in your parish in Youth Ministry *is* receiving Catechetical Formation or Religious Education. Youth Ministry incorporates formation through education, service, theological reflection, and spiritual development. It is recognized by the USCCB as a valid and effective mode of faith formation.
- **Can a 16-year-old person be a Sponsor?**
Yes, as long as they:
 - have received their Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation)
 - are living the faith as a practicing member of their parish community
 - can provide a letter from their home parish stating that they are in good standing within the Catholic Church when asked to be a sponsor in another parish.
- **How much training is required to prepare for the Comprehensive Model?**
To fully master the Comprehensive Model, training generally takes about three to five, 2-hour formation sessions. It is currently being offered through the Office of Youth, Young Adult & Campus Ministry at different parishes around the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. The time frame depends on parish needs and the minister's prior experience with the Comprehensive Model for Youth Ministry.
- **How is the new policy going to change what I'm doing now?**
It can and will affect your parish formation program into a more active and vibrant ministry by
 - building and strengthening relationships with your youth and their families and
 - increasing overall ministry involvement and collaboration within the parish.

- **What is the minimum number of years' youth need, in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, utilizing the Comprehensive Model?**

The Archdiocesan Policy for formation for the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation requires a minimum of 2 years; but, as the Comprehensive Model is meant to be a journey toward not only the Sacrament but a life as a disciple, formation can take up to 4 years. This will depend on the young person's readiness for the deeper commitment to their faith.

- **What kind of programs should be offered after a youth has received the Sacrament of Confirmation?**

This is Phase 3- *Disciples in Ministry* (part of the training). This phase offers many resources to expand your Comprehensive Model of Youth Ministry such as: implementing the eight (8) Components from the *Renewing Vision* document for on-going faith formation, training Peer Leaders through the Catholic Christian Leadership Institute (CCLI), providing opportunities for young people to be part of Deanery and Archdiocese events such as conference, retreats, etc.

Youth are trained as Disciples in Ministry, they can also serve as Peer Leaders in various ministries in your parish. (Example: trained facilitators, committee heads, retreat team members, monthly masses, etc.)

- **For parishes choosing to begin preparation for Confirmation in the 8th grade, what retreats are offered for them?**

Our Archdiocesan Middle School Coordinator will be offering several retreats around the Archdiocese, geared specifically toward Middle School, for your convenience.

- The Office will also offer trainings on Middle School Retreats for parish ministers during monthly deanery meetings and workshops.
- Parishes may also hold their own retreats for 8th grade youth in the *Learner* phase. The Youth and Young Adult office is available to help with planning your parish retreat.

- **Is there a cost for the Comprehensive Model training?**

No. Because of the wonderful support from the *Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA)*, the Office of Youth, Young Adult & Campus Ministry will be offering training, at central locations throughout the Archdiocese, for our parishes free of charge.

- **When does our parish have to begin using the Comprehensive Model for youth preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation?**

The revised policy for Confirmation for Youth has designated the 2019-2020 Catechetical Year as a "transition year" to allow time for parish Catechetical Leaders, D.R.Es, Confirmation Coordinators and/or Youth Ministry Coordinators to train and prepare to utilize this Model for preparation for Youth Confirmation. All parishes are to follow the new policy beginning July 2020.

- **Can a parish choose any text, program, or curriculum for young people on their confirmation journey?**

Please refer to Archbishop Wester's letter to Pastors and Parish Life Coordinators from Sept 19, 2015. "A list of approved texts for confirmation and youth programs can be found on the USCCB website. Please refer to the Conformity List for the approved materials that are to be used for your confirmation preparation. "

Some things to keep in mind...

The revised policy for Youth Confirmation expressly states that Youth **may not** be Confirmed in the 8th grade or younger. The only exception is for those children who are participating in the process of the *Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults adapted for Children* and who are preparing for full initiation into the Catholic Faith.

The Comprehensive Model will look different in every parish because each parish is very different in leadership and structure and resources.

The most substantial difference you will notice when utilizing the Comprehensive Model is that in the Confirmation journey that utilizes youth ministry, the confirmation candidates (i.e. *confirmandi*) will be more engaged in the life of the parish. The confirmation candidates are expected to engage with various ministries, including liturgical ministry, parish & community events, leadership opportunities, etc. Organizing these opportunities and trainings should be planned and in place for pre-confirmation (Learner), immediate preparation (Disciple in Training) and post confirmation (Disciple in Ministry) formation. By providing opportunities within youth ministry to share in the life of the parish the confirmation candidates will experience what it means to serve the people of God in various ways.

Please feel free to call the youth office with any questions or concerns. We are here to support you and ready for your phone calls.

Note: The Office of Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministry will continue to update the FAQ as questions are asked and a need to respond arises.