

Catechesis for the Sacrament of Confirmation



The revised Rite of Confirmation [Sacred Congregation for Divine Worship, Rite of Confirmation (1971)] indicates that episcopal conferences may designate the appropriate age for Confirmation....Since the sacramental practice for Confirmation in the United States is so diverse, a single catechesis cannot be prescribed for Confirmation. However, some general guidelines can be articulated.

Catechesis for adults preparing for Confirmation follows the pattern recommended in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. Dioceses and parishes should present catechesis for the Sacrament of Confirmation that:

- Teaches that Confirmation increases and deepens the grace of Baptism, imprinting an indelible character on the soul.
- Teaches that Confirmation strengthens the baptismal conferral of the Holy Spirit on those confirmed in order to incorporate them more firmly in Christ, strengthen their bond with the Church, associate them more closely with the church's mission, increase in them the gifts of the Holy Spirit (CCC, 1303), and help them bear witness to the Christian faith in words and deeds.
- Teaches about the role of the Holy Spirit, his gifts, and his fruits.
- Is developmentally appropriate and includes retreat experiences
- Includes instruction on the Rite of Confirmation and its basic symbols: the imposition of hands, the anointing with Sacred Chrism, and the words of the sacramental formula.
- Ensures that parents and sponsors are involved in the catechetical preparation of the children for Confirmation.
- Teaches that the bishop is the ordinary minister of the Sacrament of Confirmation (in the Eastern Catholic Churches, however, the priest is the ordinary minister of Chrismation).