



February 20, 2021

The following letter is from Fr. Girotti. To be clear, Bishop Ricken will not be travelling to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation this Spring but has delegated the faculty to specific pastors and priest celebrants. Fall Confirmations will take place as planned with Bishop Ricken. -Fr. Luke

Dear Priests, Pastoral Leaders & Parish Leaders,

Because of the lingering effects of the COVID -19 virus and the subsequent need to avoid congregating large groups of people, Bishop Ricken has decided to grant the faculty to specific priests of the Diocese to celebrate the regularly scheduled sacrament of Confirmation with high schoolers and select adults in their parishes for the Spring of 2021.

Since there is also a pressing need to confirm adult members of the faithful, the following guidance is provided to assist in your pastoral work.

1. The faculty granted to specific priests for the regularly scheduled Spring confirmations of high schoolers and select adults is only for these priests. A letter has already been sent to them delegating the faculty. **Thus, if you have not received a letter, you have not been granted the faculty.**
2. Please note that there will be no diocesan-wide Confirmation celebration at the Cathedral this spring. Rather, those parishes and priests who had planned to send

individuals to the Cathedral for Confirmation this Spring must request individually from Bishop Ricken the faculty to Confirm.

3. As an alternative, every priest has been granted the faculty to Confirm adult Catholics at the Easter Vigil this year (2021) who have been part of the RCIA or another formation process.
4. Special cases should be referred to me and a path forward will be found to allow for the sacrament to be received.

In short, if you have received a letter granting the faculty to Confirm, you may proceed accordingly. If you have not, you must write to Bishop Ricken asking for the faculty to Confirm giving him the relevant information regarding the date, name of individual(s), relevant reasons, and location.

I recognize that all of this appears to be overly complex, however, since the proper granting of the faculty to a priest to Confirm determines the validity of the sacrament itself, we have to be very careful. When in doubt, call me! I am happy and honored to be of help. I may be reached directly at: 920-272-8124 or at jgirotti@gbdioc.org Thank you for everything you do for Jesus and His Church.

Blessings,

Fr. John W. Girotti

Vicar for Canonical Services