



Diocese of
Green Bay

OFFICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP

NOVEMBER 7, 2017

FACULTY TO CONFIRM

(from Chancery Bulletin #346:II; January – February 2013)

The question of when a priest has the faculty to confirm can be confusing.

By virtue of the law, priests have the faculty to confirm in the following circumstances:

- 1) All priests have the faculty to confirm in danger of death (c. 883, 3°).
- 2) In virtue of their office (e.g., pastor, parochial vicar, priest celebrant (formerly called sacramental minister) and other priests) by mandate have the faculty to confirm when:
 - a) they baptize someone who is age seven or older (c. 883, 2°)
 - b) they receive a baptized non-Catholic who is age seven or older into full communion with the Catholic Church (c. 882, 2°, *National Statutes for the Catechumenate*, 35)
 - c) they readmit into full communion a baptized Catholic who has been an apostate from the faith, that is, a Catholic who has completely rejected Christianity (c. 751, *National Statutes for the Catechumenate*, 28)
 - d) they readmit into full communion a baptized Catholic who without fault has been instructed in a non-Catholic religion or adhered to a non-Catholic religion, for example, someone who was baptized as a Catholic as an infant but whose parents raised him or her as a Protestant (*National Statutes for the Catechumenate*, 28)

A priest must request the faculty to confirm all persons who do not fall in any of the circumstances listed above.