

## **JURIDICAL GUIDELINES**

*Below are some of the canons from the Code of Canon Law concerning the Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation.*

### **THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION**

#### **Canon 880**

- The sacrament of Confirmation is conferred by anointing with chrism on the forehead, which is done by the imposition of the hand, and through the words prescribed in the approved liturgical books.
- The chrism to be used in the sacrament of confirmation must be consecrated by a bishop, even if the sacrament is administered by a presbyter.

#### **Canon 881**

- It is desirable that the sacrament of confirmation be celebrated in a church and during Mass, but for a just and reasonable cause it may be celebrated outside Mass and in any worthy place.

### **THE MINISTER OF CONFIRMATION**

#### **Canon 882**

- The ordinary minister of confirmation is the bishop; a presbyter who has this faculty by virtue of either the universal law or a special concession of competent authority also confers this sacrament validly.

#### **Canon 883**

- The following have the faculty of administering confirmation by the law itself:
  1. within the limits of their territory, those who are equivalent in law to the diocesan bishop;
  2. with regard to the person in question, the presbyter who by reason of office or mandate of the diocesan bishop baptizes one who is no longer an infant or one already baptized whom he admits into the full communion of the Catholic Church;
  3. with regard to those in danger of death, the pastor or indeed any presbyter.

**Canon 884**

- The diocesan bishop is to administer confirmation personally or see that it is administered by another bishop, but if necessity requires he may give the faculty to administer this sacrament to one or more specified presbyters.
- For a grave cause, a bishop and likewise a presbyter who has the faculty to confirm by virtue of law or special concession of competent authority may in individual cases associate presbyters with themselves so that they may administer the sacrament.

**THOSE TO BE CONFIRMED****Canon 889**

- All baptized persons who have not been confirmed and only they are capable of receiving confirmation.
- Outside the danger of death, to be licitly confirmed it is required, if the person has the use of reason, that one be suitably instructed, properly disposed and able to renew one's baptismal promises.

**Canon 890**

- The faithful are obliged to receive this sacrament at the appropriate time; their parents and shepherds of souls, especially pastors, are to see to it that the faithful are properly instructed to receive it and approach the sacrament at the appropriate time.

**Canon 891**

- The sacrament of confirmation is to be conferred on the faithful at about the age of discretion unless the conference of bishops determines another age or there is danger of death or in the judgment of the minister a grave cause urges otherwise.

**SPONSORS****Canon 892**

- As far as possible a sponsor for the one to be confirmed should be present; it is for the sponsor to see that the confirmed person acts as a true witness to Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations connected with this sacrament.

**Canon 893**

- To perform the role of sponsor, it is necessary that a person fulfill the conditions mentioned in canon 874 (*see below*).

- It is desirable that the one who undertook the role of sponsor at baptism be sponsor for confirmation.

#### **Canon 874**

- To be admitted to the role of sponsor, a person must:
  1. be designated by the one to be baptized, by the parents or the one who takes their place or, in their absence, by the pastor or minister and is to have the qualifications and intention of performing this role;
  2. have completed the sixteenth year, unless a different age has been established by the diocesan bishop or it seems to the pastor or minister that an exception is to be made for a just cause;
  3. be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist and leads a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken;
  4. not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared;
  5. not be the father or the mother of the one to be baptized.

### **THE PROOF AND RECORD OF CONFERRED CONFIRMATION**

#### **Canon 894**

- The prescriptions of canon 876 are to be observed for the proof of the conferral of confirmation.

#### **Canon 895**

- The names of the confirmed with mention of the minister, the parents and the sponsors, the place and the date of the conferral of confirmation are to be noted in the confirmation register in the diocesan curia, or, where the conference of bishops or the diocesan bishop has prescribed it, in a book kept in the parish archive; the pastor must advise the pastor of the place of baptism about the conferral of confirmation so that notation be made in the baptismal register, in accord with the norm of canon 535, #2.

#### **Canon 896**

- If the pastor of the place were not present, the minister either personally or through another is to inform him of the confirmation as soon as possible.