



DIOCESE OF BUFFALO
OFFICE OF WORSHIP

MEMORANDUM

TO: Priests, Deacons, DRE's, CRE's and RCIA Coordinators
RE: Easter Vigil - Requesting the Faculty to Confirm Baptized Catholics
DATE: January 29, 2024

The Bishop is the original/ordinary minister of Confirmation in the Latin Church. However, in accord with Canon Law (canons 883-884) and the *National Statutes of the Rite of Christian Initiation* (nos. 28-29), the Bishop may delegate a priest to administer Confirmation.

There are four situations where a presbyter may lawfully confirm by mandate of the Bishop:

- when he baptizes an adult participant in the RCIA process;
- when he receives a previously baptized non-Catholic into full communion;
- when he readmits a previously baptized Catholic who had apostatized from the faith;
- when he readmits a previously baptized Catholic who, through no personal fault, was instructed in, or adhered to, a non-Catholic religion.

In the case of a baptized Catholic who without his or her fault never put the faith into practice, the faculty to confirm must be given by the Bishop to a specific priest.

This is appropriate for those previously uncatechized adult candidates who have been in formation along with others who will be receiving the Easter Sacraments. *It is not to include those candidates who are baptized Catholic, catechized and practicing in the normal course, since the Bishop reserves these candidates to himself.*

Priests who intend to confirm previously uncatechized adults at Easter time must request the faculty to confirm from the Bishop.

The faculty is granted by the Bishop only:

- (1) to the priest listed on the application,
- (2) for the occasion indicated, and
- (3) for those candidates listed on the application.

The attached form should be filled out and returned to Bishop Michael W. Fisher c/o The Chancery, 795 Main St., Buffalo, NY 14203 no later than March 8, 2024.

If you have any questions regarding the canonical status of any persons to be confirmed, please call Fr. Seán Paul Fleming at (716) 847-5545 or e-mail spfleming@buffalodiocese.org.

EASTER VIGIL - Request for the Faculty to Confirm
In Accord with Canons 883 and 884 of the Code of Canon Law

Date of Request: _____ (N.B.: Absolute Deadline – March 8, 2024)

Parish: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Date of Celebration: _____

Place (Church) of Celebration: _____

Dear Bishop Fisher:

In accord with the norms set forth in Canons 883 and 884 of the Code of Canon Law and Paragraphs 28-29 of the National Statutes for the Catechumenate, I, the **Rev.** _____ do hereby request the faculty to confirm the following previously uncatechized adult candidates who have been baptized in the Catholic Church (please print):

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

I understand that the request for this faculty is not to include those candidates who are baptized Catholic, catechized and practicing in the normal course, since the Bishop reserves these candidates to himself.

Sincerely,
