



Office of Faith Formation and Lay Ecclesial Ministry  
Directory for Catechesis

## CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION PROCEDURES FOR REHEARSAL

**Note:** The following applies to celebrations at Saint Columba.  
Instructions may be adapted for parish use.

### I. INSTRUCTION

Pastors and catechetical leaders will ensure that all candidates for Confirmation are properly prepared to receive the Sacrament and receive catechesis on the Rite of Confirmation. The rehearsal should be held in close proximity to the celebration of the Sacrament and provide a comfort level to the candidates for their participation and their specific responsibility. The rehearsal is held at the parish church, with accommodations made for the Cathedral space.

Attendance at rehearsal is required for all candidates and all sponsors. The session will include an overview of the parish expectations, the diocesan expectations, directions for travel to the Cathedral, parking, and parish receptions.

### II. GENERAL CHURCH ETIQUETTE REVIEW

Candidates and sponsors will be reminded of their expected reverence for participating in a liturgy at the Cathedral, for example:

- soft tone of voice when requesting assistance inside the church
- reverent and upright body posture for standing, sitting, and kneeling
- careful and quiet placement of kneelers to floor for the Confirmation Rite and for the Eucharistic Prayer
- arms and hands folded in prayerful stance
- participation in spoken and sung responses
- appropriate attire, jewelry, hair and facial grooming
- no photographs or video recording during the liturgy - no gum chewing
- no cell phones or other audible devices.

### III. SEATING CHART

Candidates and sponsors will be seated by parish, with candidates seated next to their sponsor. Persons seated on the right side of the church will have sponsors to their left and persons on the left will have their sponsors to their right, in order that candidates always exit the pew first and sponsors follow. Sponsors follow the candidate when approaching the Bishop.

The parish will determine the actual seating of the candidates and sponsors by pew, among the pews reserved for their parish. Allow ten persons for each pew. Seats may be assigned alphabetically, by grade, or other design.

#### IV. THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION

The Rite of Confirmation will be rehearsed at the parish. During the celebration of the Mass, the Rite of Confirmation is celebrated following the homily.

##### A. Presentation of Candidates

When directed, Pastors, one at a time, will approach the ambo and address the Bishop in these or similar words:

**“Bishop Bonnar, I present to you these young people from (name of parish and city) who are prepared to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation.”**

Candidates are asked to stand as their pastor presents them to Bishop Bonnar, and be seated when indicated to do so by their pastor.

##### B. Renewal of Baptismal Promises

The candidates stand for the Renewal of Baptismal Promises.

Review the formula with the students:

Bishop Bonnar: **Do you renounce Satan and all his works and all his empty show?**

Candidates: **I do**

Bishop Bonnar: **Do you believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth?**

Candidates: **I do**

Bishop Bonnar: **Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead, and is seated at the right hand of the Father?**

Candidates: **I do**

Bishop Bonnar: **Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who came upon the apostles at Pentecost, and today is given to you sacramentally in confirmation?**

Candidates: **I do**

Bishop Bonnar: **Do you believe in the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?**

Candidates: **I do**

Bishop Bonnar confirms their profession of faith by proclaiming the faith of the Church:

Bishop Bonnar: **This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

The whole congregation responds: **Amen**

C. The Laying On of Hands

Candidates kneel at their places.  
Bishop Bonnar prays over the candidates.  
All pray in silence for a short time.

D. The Anointing with Chrism

When the Bishop proceeds to the center of the sanctuary steps, all candidates are to be seated. Approaching the Bishop for anointing will be processional style beginning with the first row and continuing to the last. Confirmandi and sponsors will exit pews toward the side aisle, and walk across the front of the sanctuary to be anointed. After anointing, Confirmandi and sponsors will return to their seats by way of the center aisle.

Instruct the students to stand very close to the Bishop for anointing.

Once before the Bishop, the candidate clearly and loudly states his or her Confirmation name. Sponsors place their right hand on the right shoulder of their candidate.

Candidate:                   State your confirmation name  
(The Bishop dips right thumb in the chrism and makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of the one to be confirmed as he says)

Bishop Bonnar:                   **name, be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.**

Candidate:                   Amen.

Bishop Bonnar:                   **Peace be with you.**

Candidate:                   And with your spirit.

Newly confirmed and their sponsor return to their seats by way of the center aisle and are seated.

V. THE RECEPTION OF COMMUNION

Ushers will direct the reception of Communion.

VI. FOLLOWING MASS

Bishop Bonnar will remain for group photographs for each parish. Each parish is responsible for the photographer and camera. Families may also take pictures following Mass.