GUIDELINES FOR CONFIRMATION OF PRACTICING CATHOLIC ADULTS

- There are several options for the celebration of confirmation with adult Catholics:
  - Celebration of Confirmation at St. Columba Cathedral
  - Annual or bi-annual parish celebration of confirmation with prepared youth according to the bishop’s calendar
  - By pastor on Pentecost, during the Easter Season, or another appropriate time. In order to confirm baptized Catholics, the pastor must request in writing the permission of the bishop
  - Annual or bi-annual celebration of confirmation in a neighboring parish

- In addition to the parish-at-large, the following groups are potential candidates for adult confirmation:
  - Engaged couples
  - Prospective godparents
  - Expectant parents
  - Parents of children preparing for sacraments.

- In order to receive the sacrament of confirmation, the adult must be:
  - A baptized Catholic who is not yet confirmed and who has requested the sacrament
  - If married, witnessed by the church
  - Suitably instructed, properly disposed and able to renew baptismal promises
  - Provided with the opportunity to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation
  - Determined by their pastor to be an eligible candidate.

- Several options exist for the preparation of adult Catholics for confirmation:
  - Parish based preparation
  - Inter parish based preparation

- The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults process is intended for persons who are not yet Catholic. It is inappropriate for practicing Catholics to participate in the RCIA as confirmation candidates. A simple process which acknowledges their previous formation should be provided.

- Sponsors for confirmation of adults is the same as for children:
  - Preferably one’s baptismal godparent
  - Catholic, confirmed, and has already received the Eucharist
  - At least 16 years of age
  - Leads a life in harmony with the undertaking of this duty including participating in the sacramental life of the Church. If married, witnessed by the church.

- The names of the confirmed, the minister, the parents and sponsors, and the place and date of confirmation should be recorded in the parish where confirmation takes place. The parish of baptism must also be notified.
FORMATION OBJECTIVES

- Participants will be encountered as individuals and respected for the diversity of their previous catechetical and formational experiences.

- Participants will be provided with the opportunity to discern their readiness and desire to celebrate the sacrament with their pastor or his delegate.

- Participants will be provided with a formational process that deepens their understanding of the seven sacraments, the creed, and contemporary Catholic teachings, according to their level of desire and their articulated needs.

RECOMMENDED OUTLINE

- Initial Session
  (It is presumed that the person’s eligibility for confirmation has been determined by the pastor prior to the first session.)
  o Provide a process to identify the background of the participants and previous catechetical and formational experiences. The process will allow the facilitator to prepare the content of the following sessions.
  o Introduce topics related to what it means to be Catholic; the Church universal, diocesan Church, and parish community.

- Catholic Belief And Practice
  This session should be developed based on the needs of the participants. Possible topics would include:
  o The Catholic Creed
  o Church teaching and tradition
  o Catholic understanding of scripture
  o Liturgical year; prayer and worship.

- The Sacraments of Initiation
  o Overview on the seven sacraments
  o Presentation on the sacraments of initiation
  o Overview of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

- The Sacrament of Confirmation
  o The role, fruits, gifts of the Holy Spirit
  o Theology of confirmation
  o Review of the rite (may include rehearsal)