



September 26, 2016

Dear Friends,

At the request of the Very Rev. Richard Heilman and a number of the faithful, I will, on Wednesday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016 confer the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite. The Confirmation will take place at St. Mary Parish, Pine Bluff, Wisconsin at 7:30 PM (a Solemn High Mass at 6:30pm will precede my arrival). I am happily conferring this Sacrament under the ancient rite of the Church at the request of a number of families, from various parishes around the diocese and with the support of the Tridentine Mass Society of Madison.

While a majority of those seeking the Sacrament of Confirmation on this occasion come from St. Mary Parish, and will be joined by parishioners from parishes within the diocese whose pastors are fully aware of and even involved in the requests themselves, there are some families who come from different parishes – even some from outside the Diocese of Madison. As such, and with an eye on both the role and responsibility of parents as the primary educators of their children, and my own responsibility – and that of the pastors with me – to answer for the souls of each and every person in our care, it is necessary for me to set forward the following requirements for the parents of those seeking the Sacrament of Confirmation on this occasion:

- In the first place, the individual must be of the age of reason (usually 7 or older) and Baptized (but never Confirmed previously);
- The individual should be suitably instructed;  
(If you are uncertain as to what a reasonable degree of suitable instruction would be for one receiving Confirmation your parish or the Diocesan Office of Evangelization and Catechesis may be able to help.)
- The individual should be properly disposed;  
(Candidates should seek the sacrament of their own free will, and be free from mortal sin having been to Confession in a reasonably recent time prior to Confirmation.)
- The candidate should be able to renew their baptismal promises.

While it is my desire to offer the Sacrament of Confirmation to any who are prepared and disposed and who properly and reasonably seek it, it is vital that I remind families of the

**O F F I C E   O F   T H E   B I S H O P**

Diocese of Madison · 702 S. High Point Road · Suite 225 · Madison, WI 53719  
Phone: 608-821-3002 · Fax: 608-821-4552 · Email: [Officeofbishop@madisondiocese.org](mailto:Officeofbishop@madisondiocese.org)

important role that their parish should play in their lives as Catholics. Ideally, the parish should be a stable home for the expression of the liturgical life for each family, and the pastor always respected as the one charged with the care of every individual and family within his territory.

As such, it remains important for families to maintain good communications with their pastors, not only for the sake of respecting their role as the one charged with the care of their souls, but even for more practical reasons having to do with governance in the Church (in this case, for instance, for the sake of maintaining sacramental records and the like). For these reasons it is important for parents to send a note with the following information to the below address:

- The full name, age, and home parish (including city) of the individual to be confirmed, along with the name of their sponsor. (In brief, sponsors themselves must be a practicing Catholic who has been confirmed, must be sixteen or older, and must not be the father or mother of the one to be confirmed.);
- The complete address of the parish of Baptism of the perspective confirmand, for the sake of our sending notification for the updating of the baptismal registry;
- A recently-issued, fully-annotated baptismal certificate (this can be easily requested from the parish of baptism);
- A brief note from the pastor of any perspective confirmand, acknowledging the pastor's awareness of this matter and confirming that he knows of no serious impediments to the reception of the sacrament on the part of the individual in question. (If there is more than one candidate from a single parish, a single note containing all candidates will certainly suffice.)

A brief letter with the necessary information, along with the letter from the pastor and baptismal certificate can be sent, no later than November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016, to the following address:

Very Rev. Richard Heilman, VF  
Attn.: Tridentine Mass Society of Madison  
3673 County Road P  
Cross Plains, WI 53528

At this point I wish to extend my gratitude to Father Heilman and to Father John Zuhlsdorf and the Tridentine Mass Society of Madison for their work in collating this information and their help in making every preparation for this joyous occasion.

Please be assured of my prayers for you and your families and I look very much forward to the prospect of seeing you at the conferral of the sacrament. Please pray for me.

Faithfully in the Lord,

  
Most Rev. Robert C. Morlino  
Bishop of Madison

