



October 17, 2017

Dear Friends,

With thanks to the Very Rev. Richard Heilman and the faithful of St. Mary Parish, as well as Fr. John Zuhlsdorf and the Tridentine Mass Society of Madison, I will, again this year confer the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite. The Confirmation will take place on Tuesday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017 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 and priests, from various parishes around the diocese.

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 grave 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 important role that their parish should play in their lives as Catholics. Ideally, the parish should

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

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be a stable home for the expression of the Sacramental 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, to the address below, a letter requesting the sacrament, attesting to the above bulleted points, and including the following information:

- The full name, age, and home parish (including city) of the individual to be confirmed;
- 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.

Attached to the letter should be:

- 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.)

My office has prepared a sample letter (attached) that may be of use to you. This letter, along with the letter from the pastor and baptismal certificate can be sent, no later than November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017, to the following address:

Very Rev. Richard Heilman, VF  
Attn.: Confirmation Request  
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,

  
+ Robert C. Morlino  
Most Rev. Robert C. Morlino  
Bishop of Madison

## *Sample letter from parents*

Date

Very Rev. Richard Heilman, VF  
Attn.: Confirmation Request  
3673 County Road P  
Cross Plains, WI 53528

Dear Father Heilman,

With this letter we wish to present our children,

Joseph Patrick Smith, age 14,  
and  
Mary Elizabeth Smith, age 12,

to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation from Bishop Robert C. Morlino at your parish on Wednesday, November 28th, 2017. We, as their parents, attest that our children have been suitably instructed and prepared for this sacrament. We will do our best to make certain that they are properly disposed to receiving the sacrament, that they will understand (insofar as is possible) what the sacrament is, and will approach of their own free will and free from grave sin. They will be able to renew their Baptismal promises and have a basic understanding of what it is that they profess. We also promise to offer every opportunity for their continued formation and maturation in the faith.

With us, both children belong to St. Philibert Parish, 325 Church St., Oshwaukaukee, WI 53999. Mary Elizabeth was baptized at our current parish, but Joseph was baptized at St. Mechtilde Parish, 121 8th Street, Stevenstown, OH, 45999. The sponsor for Joseph will be his uncle, Peter Paul Smith and for Mary will be her aunt, Anne Margaret Smith. Both sponsors are over the age of sixteen and are practicing Catholics who have been Confirmed themselves.

Here attached you will find the annotated Baptismal certificate for Mary. Joseph's certificate will be sent directly to you from St. Mechtilde Parish in Stevenstown, OH in the coming days. Also attached is a letter from our pastor, Fr. Bob McRoberts, acknowledging his awareness of our request to participate in this ceremony and confirming that he knows of no serious impediments to either of our children receiving the sacrament.

If you need anything further of us, please don't hesitate to be in touch either by phone (608)555-3232, or by email – [smithaloo012@gmail.com](mailto:smithaloo012@gmail.com)

We look forward to being with you on Nov. 28th and promise our prayers. Thank you for all your work in making possible this Confirmation in the Extraordinary Form.

Sincerely,

Michael and Gabriella Smith

Cc: Rev. Bob McRoberts, Pastor, St. Philibert Parish, Oshwaukaukee