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## MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** All Pastors & Business Administrators

**FROM:** Rev. Msgr. W. Michael Mulvey, Vicar General

**CC:** Most Rev. Gregory M. Aymond, Bishop  
Deacon Ron Walker, Chancellor  
Helen Osman, Director of Communications

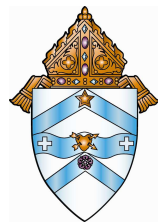
**SUBJECT:** Revised Policy on the Celebration of Confirmation for Baptized Catholic Adults

**DATE:** March 30, 2007

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Enclosed you will find a revision of the “Policy on the Celebration of Confirmation for Baptized Catholic Adults.” This policy should replace the existing pages M-8 and M-9 in the Diocesan Pastoral Manual. Due to a lack of clarity in the previous written policy, the Bishop has made revisions resulting in the new policy dated March 28, 2007.

Please note that this policy takes effect on the first Sunday after Easter 2007.



# Diocese of Austin

The Catholic Church of Central Texas

## Policy on the Celebration of Confirmation for Baptized Catholic Adults

*Effective April 15, 2007*

To serve the people of God in their desire to participate fully in the sacramental life of the church, the Diocese of Austin has established the following policy:

- 1) Baptized Catholic adults may always be included in the celebration of Confirmation when the Bishop comes to the parish or at the diocesan adult Confirmation liturgy.
- 2) The universal law of the Church grants to priests the faculty to confirm those whom they themselves either baptize or bring into the Church by a profession of faith at the Easter Vigil. It does not, however, grant this faculty for the Confirmation of already baptized Catholics. Outside of cases involving the danger of death, the faculty to confirm such Catholics must be given by the local ordinary.
- 3) Delegation from the Ordinary is required for pastors to confirm the following persons:
  - a) a Roman Catholic adult who is baptized but uncatechized, that is, they have not received First Eucharist or Confirmation. If these adults have participated in the RCIA program for their required catechesis before Communion and Confirmation (according to RCIA no. 400), they have the right to be confirmed by the ordinary minister of Confirmation, the bishop. If the pastor determines that it is more fitting for them to be confirmed at the Easter Vigil, the pastor must request delegation in writing from the bishop in order to confirm them. The request should include the name(s) of the candidate(s) and the reason(s) for the requested delegation.
  - b) a Roman Catholic adult who is baptized, catechized and has received First Communion but has not received Confirmation and is a regularly practicing Catholic has the right to be confirmed by the ordinary minister of Confirmation, the bishop. If a pastor determines that it is more suitable that these persons be confirmed at the Easter Vigil, a request for delegation must be sent to the bishop in writing including the reason(s) and the names of the candidates. Delegation to confirm persons in such situations may also be requested for any Sunday of the Easter season including Pentecost. Pastors are responsible for providing a reasonable period of

preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation for these people. Please note that this is a separate, additional delegation than the one referred to in 2) above.

Note: An unbaptized child over 7 years of age is to receive all three Initiation sacraments at the Easter Vigil. That is he/she is to celebrate Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion at the same celebration.