July 24, 2018

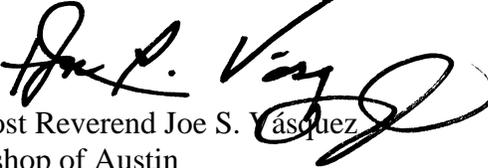**RE: 2018 Confirmation Scheduling**

Dear Pastor/Administrator:

As we begin scheduling parish Confirmation liturgies for next year, it is my hope that Auxiliary Bishop Daniel Garcia and I will be able to celebrate the majority of Confirmations on the weekends concentrated during the Easter season (there are other available dates in the fall and winter). As I have mentioned before, Confirmations may be celebrated on the Second through Fifth Sundays of Lent, and on weekdays of Lent through Thursday of the Fifth Week.

If your parish has a small number of candidates, I encourage you to work with neighboring parishes to try to combine your candidates with theirs for the celebration of the sacrament. Likewise, there are a few parishes where the number of candidates is so large (over 200), it is recommended that two separate ceremonies be considered for the celebration of Confirmation.

As in the past, requesting a Confirmation liturgy will be done through the diocesan website. You will be able to view available dates on our schedules before submitting your request. Beginning July 28, 2017, the form can be accessed on the diocesan website at: http://www.austindiocese.org/confirmation. You will be instructed to select five dates, in order of preference, on which the celebration of this sacrament could take place at your parish. Requests will be processed in the order in which they are received and should be submitted by August 18, 2017. A final schedule will be mailed to you in September.

Thank you so much for your pastoral leadership, especially your ministry with the youth in their preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation. Their enthusiasm to grow in faith is a wonderful sign of the Holy Spirit's presence in our diocese. Wishing you God's blessings, I am

Fraternally in Christ,

Most Reverend Joe S. Vásquez
Bishop of Austin

JSV:mj