

DIOCESE OF JEFFERSON CITY

--POLICY ON THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION--

AGE: At least 16 years of age and a junior in high school.

PROGRAM LENGTH: Approximately nine months is recommended.

SPONSORS: Should be fully initiated, active, and practicing adult Catholics (preferably out of high school) in good standing with the Catholic Church; actively involved in the preparation and formation of the candidate. Should be an adult other than the candidate's parents.

PROGRAM REVIEW: A description of each parish's Preparation Program (used in the formation of those who will receive the sacrament in 2009) must be submitted by **July 31, 2008** to the Office of Youth Ministry for review. See reverse side for guidelines on submitting preparation programs.

Each program is reviewed to verify its adherence to diocesan policy, and to observe how it satisfies the criteria recommended by the Bishop. It is understood that a fair amount of flexibility is necessary for each parish - or multi-parish - confirmation program to be developed and implemented that meets the unique situations of our 110 diocesan parishes and missions.

--CRITERIA FOR CONFIRMATION PREPARATION--

Each program must contain elements that satisfy the following criteria:

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN YOUTH AND THE PARISH COMMUNITY:

The entire parish community should be involved in the preparation of the candidates. The candidates must be recognized, constantly lifted in prayer, and welcomed as integral members of the parish.

KNOWLEDGE FORMATION: Reflection on Sacred Scriptures ("Pentecost," "the early church in Acts," "Fruits of the Spirit," etc.), the completion of the grace received at baptism, and the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Adequate information must be provided to allow candidates to make well-informed decisions.

FAITH FORMATION: Exposure to the rich traditions and variety of Catholic prayer forms and expressions. Having opportunities for Reconciliation and celebrating the Eucharist on a regular basis. Being witness to the testimonies of the faith journeys of others (young adults or young at heart).

PARTICIPATION IN THE MISSION AND MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH: A focus on our baptismal call to serve; exposure to opportunities; and reflection on gifts, stewardship, and serving those most in need.

INVOLVEMENT OF PARENTS AND SPONSORS: Parents and sponsors are to be involved in active, formative ways, relating their faith and their call to mission with the candidates.

ENABLING YOUTH TO COME TO WELL-FORMED DECISIONS: In addition to the usual means of preparation, a candidate may need individual guidance, prayer, counsel, and assistance from the parents, sponsors, priest, or other mentor to enable him/her to make a mature decision as to whether he/she is ready and willing to receive the sacrament at this time.

PARTICIPATION IN ONE OF THE VOCATION REFLECTION DAYS:

✓ *March 8, 15, 22, 2009 at the Cathedral of St. Joseph*