

DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG
POLICY CONCERNING THE
CONFIRMATION OF BAPTIZED CATHOLICS

The bishop is the ordinary minister of the sacrament of Confirmation. There are exceptions, however, in certain circumstances, and this policy pertains to those exceptions.

1. Priests already possess the faculty to confirm baptized Catholics whether they have been catechized or not in only two cases: those in which the Catholic has been an apostate from the faith (that is, formally joined a non-Christian religion), or when the Catholic through no personal fault has been instructed or raised in a non-Catholic religion or adhered to a non-Catholic religion (National Statutes for the Catechumenate (NCCB 1986) N. 28).
2. Priests do not have the faculty to confirm those Catholics who simply lapsed from the practice of the faith or those who, without fault of their own, never put the Catholic faith into practice.
3. Baptized Catholics over the age of seven who have never received First Holy Communion are to be considered un-catechized. These un-catechized Catholics must go through the RCIA process of preparation. *The faculty for priests to confirm un-catechized Catholics must be requested from the Bishop in each individual case. Granting of the faculty may never be presumed.*
4. Baptized Catholics who have received First Holy Communion are to be considered as catechized, even though such catechesis may be rudimentary or incomplete. Such catechized Catholics who later lapsed from the practice of the faith or who without fault of their own never put the Catholic faith into practice or even those who merely missed confirmation should receive a suitable period of instruction before reception of the sacrament. *These catechized Catholics must be confirmed either: a) at the diocesan celebration of confirmation for adults on Pentecost Sunday, or b) when the Bishop or his delegate visits the deanery to administer the sacrament of confirmation.*

BISHOP ONLY	PRIEST NEEDS TO BE GRANTED FACULTY FROM THE BISHOP	PRIEST HAS THE FACULTY WITHIN THE LAW ALREADY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Catholics who have received First Holy Communion who later lapsed from the practice of the faith or who, without fault, never put the Catholic faith into practice, or who willingly joined another Christian church. ▪ Catholics who merely missed confirmation 	<p>Catholics who never received First Holy Communion and who have gone through the RCIA Process.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A Catholic that has been an apostate from the faith (that is, formally joined a non-Christian religion). ▪ When the Catholic through no personal fault has been instructed or raised in a non-Catholic religion or adhered to a non-Catholic religion.